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THE GAINS OF THE WAR.

THE terms of the Treaty appear to be such as will excite no enthusiasm, but, at the same time, such as we could not well refuse. We grudge the money for the fireworks, of course (we hope they will be managed so as not to burn the town!); but, all things considered, a decorous and reasonable joy is not improper. Peace is a blessing—morally, pecuniarily, and politically; and considering how great the scale of the war—how monstrous our failures and losses, and how dangerous the possibilities involved in its continuance—a quiet man may be glad to see the affair ended. There are statesmen who think that we might, with our present enormous strength, have once and for ever settled Russia. There are many who see, with bitter indignation, that the authority of France in the matter is greater than our own, and that she hopes to have our countenance in bullying Belgium. But, from some cause or another, this nation has lost its old high and proud self-confidence, and a period of quiet, a period of study and of meditation, will do it good. Let it inquire into the causes of all that has gone wrong, and is getting worse in its affairs, and use the coming time of peace more wisely than the last.

A writer, apparently well informed—we mean the author of the Essay on the Peace, in the "Quarterly Review"—attributes the yielding of Russia to one especial cause more than others—the want of transport in the south. Of course, this is only one among several causes, but still it is suggestive. She yields for want of mechanical conveniences, which peace, and the "progress" we are recommending to her, will supply. Our failures have not been of the same kind—they have been moral and intellectual ones. Russia, as far as she could, has managed the war with real governing genius—her generals have been up to their work: she has, in short, made the most of her material. We have not made the most of our material: our generals have been very ordinary personages, and our victory has rather been that of Englishmen over Russians than of England over Russia. This can easily be understood, from an illustrative case. An English regiment on a parade—say at Paris or Vienna—would feel infinite superiority to a Russian one on the same parade; but how would an English commander, fresh from the exposures of Chelsea, feel in a

drawing-room where was the man who organised the defence of the Redan, or the retreat across the bridge? He would know that he was of a superior nation, but he would feel that he was an inferior individual.

No philo-Russianism is to be expected from us, nor is intended here. We know our English superiority to that people—we know that their despotism is only justified by their barbarism; but we know, too, that we ought to learn from them, if we can. It is the eternal glory of our soldiers to have beaten them in battle; but we are not now criticising our soldiers—we are stating only, that, during the war, their government has been better than ours. And the question is, whether, when peace leaves each nation to its own pursuits, the Russian activity of government will not find ways of becoming again dangerous in the East; and whether, fifty years' hence, it will be as easy to make such a combination against her.

The great provision against danger is found in the settlement of the Black Sea: so far, much is secured. No Russian man-of-war floating there—no mighty fortress on its shores as arsenal or nest of mischief. These are great points; they are such gains as we should never have got if we had trusted to the courage of Lord Aberdeen, or the diplomacy of Lord John Russell, or the patriotism of Gladstone or Bright. They are due to the persevering way in which the country stuck to the war, and to the final result of the siege of Sebastopol, and to the unabated preparations of last winter, with its cloud of war-craft swarming on our sea. The directest and deadliest mode of attacking the Porte—and we know how Russia valued it, for we know the cost, and have seen the defence—is now impossible to the Czar. It is true that it is open to him to work by Asia, where the name of Kars will always be an inspiration; but here, again, we have some consoling facts. We shall never, after this, know and care so little as we did about Asia, Turkey, and the whole East, before the war. In proportion as we get connected with Turkey by commerce and politics, it will be more and more difficult for Russia to assail her in any way; and such a connection is now highly probable. An early result of the peace will be an overflow of capital for purposes of speculation, much of which all this Eastern

interest will direct eastward. The old Turkey is now fairly become an impossibility; and it is clear that she will have to accept and digest, the best way she can, foreign influences. Hitherto she has not advanced beyond the epoch of conquest; her future will depend on the way in which she amalgamates with the West, to which she virtually submits. Her territory is properly to be evacuated by the Treaty. The safety which she owes to us she can only repay by interchange; and we look forward to increased Eastern commerce, as one important gain of the war. It is alone a justification of this war, that the Russians are not fit to use the resources of Turkey, if they had it; and, as we by no means believe that Russia will henceforth apply herself to the arts of peace only, the war is sufficiently justified, if it prevent her further extension till she has attained a stage where her extension would be less a curse to mankind than it would be at present. In strictness, we have nothing to do with the possible future of Russia, or what she may choose to think her "destiny;" we are only concerned to know that just now she has no right to threaten Turkey's independence, and through it, the control of the Mediterranean, and the future of the East. Should she succeed two centuries hence, it will not therefore be true that she ought to have been allowed to succeed two centuries before. Our resolution in this war may have changed the destiny of that part of the globe, since influences may come into play, under the shelter of Western protection, which could never have done anything, had Russia gone unchecked. We repeat, that our chance now is to take the opportunity of attempting to impregnate the East with European ideas, and to evolve its resources by European skill. It is not the first time that the sword has cleared the way for the ploughshare; and nothing can be so unphilosophical as to despise all war, when it is known that war is as useful in opening up barbarous regions, as a fire is in the backwoods of America.

The regulation of the Danube is a success to commerce, and a gain to the world. Russia is to go back from that noble river, which she could not use herself, and which she obstructed as far as was in her power. It will be free to all the world, without barbaric hindrance; and so another obstacle to Russian advance will be presented



THE SCHOOL OF MURILLO.—(PAINTED BY W. H. KEARNEY, NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS)

as time brings new resources out of those regions, and makes war less facile. For we see every day, that, where a certain amount of material prosperity has been established, dependent on the good-will of nations, mankind are less and less willing to go to war on slight pretexts; indeed, that is one acquisition, which modern times may take as a set-off for their too great attachment to material advantages and pursuits. If we are less ready to engage in a crusade, we are kept, by mere selfishness, out of many a scuffle. What Christianity scarcely achieves for us in the way of fraternity with America, is really accomplished by a regard for the cotton trade! The Czars will get quieter and more long-headed when the Black Sea begins to fill with traders, perhaps; and it may be that Turkey will not be conquered, but supplanted—the Osmaelic element getting swallowed up by, or merging into, the Christian races, now that these are likely to make their practical superiority of brain felt.

It is of great importance that Turkey is henceforth incorporated in the European system; hitherto it has been a matter of accident whether we meddled with her politics or not. Few cared for or thought of her politics, and our ambassador had it all his own way. Everything that affects her will now be matter of direct concern, and we have learned thoroughly of what importance she may be. It is probable that our comparative indifference to the Eastern question prompted the late Emperor Nicholas to think that we might connive at his designs. We shall now, all of us, expect greater diplomatists than Lord Stratford at the Porte, a more direct acquaintance with what is going on there, and an entirely improved consular system in the East.

So much for one class of gains, by which Russia has been severely and unmistakably checked, and the "Eastern question" has been at all events postponed till we better know how to answer it. As for our private gains by the war in England—speaking domestically—they are not contemptible. We have kept our bagman school of politicians in their proper place for a couple of years, and they will never pass for such great men again. We have learned to honour other things besides money. We have found out that our military system wants entire revision, and that our parliamentary system breeds more plausible talkers than governing men. These are all gains in their way; and we hope their lessons will not be lost on the public remembrance. It will be no small gain alone, if we learn that the millennium is not come yet; that wars are still possible, and men not philosophers, but men only, still; that the kind of prosperity we enjoy does not include every species of excellence; and that if for the last thirty years we had been somewhat less vain of ourselves and our country, we should have made far more of the war than we have. Having got rid of it, on terms which are creditable, if no more, the next best thing is to apply its lessons in our home affairs. We think there will be peace for a long time now, but we think that it would be the worst folly to begin and act again as if it must needs be eternal.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Congress assembled at three on Sunday afternoon, at their accustomed place of meeting, the Hotel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to exchange the ratifications of the Treaty of Paris.

Count Cavour, who passed rapidly through Paris on his way from London, had a farewell audience of the Emperor on Saturday, and left for Turin on Sunday morning. He was consequently not present at the exchange of ratifications.

The Minister of State attended in official costume on Monday at the Senate, and announced the exchange of the ratifications of Peace. He afterwards proceeded to the Legislative Corps, and made the same announcement.

Baron Brunow leaves Paris in about ten days, and M. de Bourqueney returns to his post as Ambassador to Vienna in June.

Count Morny will reside at the Woronzow Palace at St. Petersburg. The Count is beset with solicitations for appointments as attachés.

The Imperial Prince has been enrolled an *enfant* in the first troop of the Grenadier Regiment of the Imperial Guard. According to rumour, the sum arising from a subscription of 5 to 25 centimes, for the purpose of offering a *hommage* to the Emperor and the young Prince, is to be laid out in purchasing the Villa-Marengo, in Italy, built on the field of battle where the first Napoleon gained his great victory.

SPAIN.

A GRAND review of 9,000 troops and 34,000 National Guards came off at Madrid, on the 20th ult., with great pomp, in presence of the Queen and King, the Duke of Victoria, the Ministers, the principal members of the diplomatic body, and a crowd of spectators. A vast number of strangers flocked to Madrid to see the review, and it excited the greatest enthusiasm; but there was not the slightest disturbance. The blessing of the flags distributed on the occasion was proceeded to in the church of Atocha, and afterwards the Queen headed them one by one to Marshal Espartero, who gave them with his hand to each regiment. Her Majesty and the King afterwards proceeded to the palace of Buena Vista, where the National Guard and troops filed off amidst loud cries of "Long live the Queen! Liberty for ever! Union for ever! Long live the Duke de la Victoria!" In the evening all the theatres were crowded to excess.

A rumour gains credit to the effect that Russia will shortly recognise Queen Isabella, and that this recognition will be followed by the submission of a great number of Carlist chiefs.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor and Empress of Austria will, it is rumoured, visit Rome in the month of June, to take part in a grand fête in honour of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

According to the "Militär Zeitung," all the Austrian companies, with the exception of those in Italy, are to be reduced to 60 men, which is just half the usual strength of a company when on a peace footing.

A pastoral letter has been addressed to the clergy of Lower Austria, ordering that in Roman Catholic cemeteries where hitherto it has not been the custom to make a distinction between the graves of men of different religious views, a special and distinct spot be henceforth kept for the bodies of Protestants.

PRUSSIA.

M. MARSHALL has been well received on his return to Berlin, and is to be fêted with banquets by the Court.

A day of thanksgiving for the peace is fixed for to-morrow, the 4th inst. There was a report at Berlin on the 23rd ult. that the Council of War had condemned M. de Rochow to three years' imprisonment in a fortress. The Queen of Prussia has left Berlin for Dresden. Preparations are being made at Berlin for the reception of the Dowager Empress of Russia.

RUSSIA.

PRINCE DOLGOROUKI, principal aide-de-camp to the Emperor Alexander and Minister at War, will, it is understood, be the new Russian Ambassador at Paris. The Embassy will be placed on a footing of much splendour, and will probably surpass all the others in the magnificence of its hospitality.

Accounts from St. Petersburg state that an Imperial decree disbanded 237 drachines of militia, and six regiments of Cossacks of the Tartar Cavalry, raised this year in the government of Kasan; forming together a total of 350,000 men of the militia of the Empire of the first and second Banns.

SARDINIA.

COUNT CAVOUR's presence in the Sardinian Chambers has been awaited at Turin with lively impatience.

The *Chevalier Cibrario*, Minister of Foreign Affairs, is said to have retired from office.

The Sardinian army is to be reduced by 16,000 men. It is reported that the Government is preparing a law which will impose a censure money on journals, and give the Government the right of suppressing a journal that has been condemned five times; moreover, that Archbishop Fagnoni, of Turin, will probably be named cardinal, and return to his episcopal see.

AMERICA.

The British and North American Royal Mail steamship *Asia*, Captain B. G. Lott, arrived in the Mersey on Tuesday, from New York, with the usual mail, 139 passengers, 453,000 lbs. in specie.

It was reported that, just as the *Asia* was leaving New York, accounts were received, *via* Havana, reporting that the steamer then due from California had news of the defeat of General Walker's army in Costa Rica with a heavy loss of men.

INDIA.

By the Overland Mail, we have the following summary from the "Bombay Times," of April 2:—

"Intelligence from Bushire to the 20th of March apprises us of tranquillity throughout Persia; with the manifestation of the most friendly dispositions towards the English. We have nothing certain about Herat or Afghanistan, excepting that there is no movement occurring in Central Asia that need occasion us the slightest anxiety.

"The Santals, six months since in open insurrection, are now peaceably employed as railway labourers.

"The arrangements for the administration of Oude are nearly all completed; and not an outrage has attended the transfer of the kingdom from native to English hands.

"The revenue returns of Pegu show that the province already yields £10,000 a year in excess of its charges.

"Several murders have occurred on our Punjab frontier, but no foreign or general movement.

"Peace and tranquillity reign throughout British India.

"The late King of Oude has got as far as Cawnpore, on his way, it is said, to England.

"Prome has been utterly destroyed by fire. It broke out about noon on the 25th of February, and in less than four hours consumed the entire town. Over a space of some three hundred thousand square yards, nothing but ruins is to be seen. The place contained few brick houses, and will be readily rebuilt, but the loss of property must be very great. The principal sufferers are, of course, the merchants. As in the fire at Rangoon, the Burmese lent no assistance in putting out the flames."

AUSTRALIA.

SYDNEY papers, to February 13, state that intelligence had been received, *via* Portland Bay, of the total loss of the Aberdeen clipper *Varcoe*, 800 tons, between Cape Northumberland and Rivoli Bay. All on board must have perished, the vessel being literally smashed to pieces. Some bodies were found on the beach, fearfully mangled by the violence of the wreck, and were decently buried by the inhabitants. The *Varcoe* was from Manila to Sydney, with a full cargo of sugar and other produce for the use of the colony. The papers also announce the loss of the American clipper *Reindeer*, belonging to Messrs. E. Gassett and Co., of Boston, which struck on an unknown rock outside of Torres Straits and foundered. The crew suffered severely, being forty-two days in open boats, subsisting on shell-fish, and were so completely exhausted, that, on reaching Moreton Bay, they had to be lifted out of the boats, not having strength to stand or walk.

Melbourne papers are to the 18th February. Acting Governor MacArthur had succeeded in forming a Ministry, and was consolidating the new Government to the satisfaction of the greater part of the colonists. His Excellency was gaining golden opinions by his prudent conduct and determination. The yields at the gold fields were undiminished. From January 1 to February 15, 1856, there had been shipped 384,681 ounces of gold, or 10 tons 2 qrs. 6 lbs., which, at 80s., amounted to £1,538,724. The price of gold had advanced to £3 15s. per ounce. There had been severe floods at the Bendigo diggings, doing much damage; the losses were estimated at 10,000 ounces. Some riots had taken place at the diggings, the diggers being desirous to obtain the government reserves of land, on which to carry on their mining operations.

Mr. Gavan Duffy, late of the "Nation" newspaper, had arrived and been entertained at Melbourne. The dinner ended in a riot—a usual result of mixed Irish society. Mr. Duffy had disclaimed all intention of carrying on agitation, professing to devote himself to his profession—the bar.

Hobart town journals to February 9 are loud in denouncing the conduct of Sir H. Young, in refusing to give his consent to the Civil Service Pension Bill. The measure had been introduced by the Government, and the Governor's refusal to pass the Royal assent took every one by surprise. The Legislative Council had been prorogued, preparatory to its final dissolution. Mr. William Brown, of Hobart Town, had offered to construct an electric telegraph for Government, from Mount Lewis to Hobart Town, thence to Launceston and George Town; to complete the whole in nine months from its being commenced, at a cost of £16,000. The project was under the consideration of Government.

CHINA.

We have intelligence from Hong Kong to March 15. With regard to the rebellion, we learn from the *New China Herald* that the Imperialists had of late been getting the worst of it; that they had sustained a defeat at Chin-king-foo, which they were besieging; and had fallen back on Tientsin, where they had formed a military camp. At Whoo-hoo, on the banks of the Yang-tze-keang, upwards of a hundred Imperialists had been killed, amongst whom were some Shanghai people, whose friends had received the intelligence of their death. It is reported that the people on the banks of the Yang-tze-keang allow their hair to grow, for fear of being killed by the rebels, and that the mandarins had ceased decapitating them for this crime, as their numbers were so great that it was feared the whole country would rise in their defence. The *Herald* says the rebellion is now most active in Keang-se, to the south of the Poyang Lake. It is reported that in the prefecture of Tsen-choo, between the Yang-tze-keang and the Yellow rivers, seven cities have been taken by a set of rebels distinct from those of Nankin.

THE ALLIES IN THE CRIMEA.

ALL RESTRICTIONS WITHDRAWN AS TO A BOUNDARY LINE.

APRIL 12.—The Russians now form part of the population which daily frequent the camps and bazaars. General Liders has been a frequent visitor. All restrictions have now been withdrawn respecting a boundary line, and the officers and soldiers of the several armies can go freely where they please, subject only to the regulations of their respective commanders. The Russian officers advised that the towns of Bakshi-Serai and Simpheropol should be avoided, on account of typhus fever, which was described to be raging there. The former town has, however, been visited by many persons from the camp, and it is usually described as hardly repaying the trouble of the journey. It is said to be dirty, crowded, and presenting many of the worst features of a second-rate Turkish town. The palace of the Khans, its great object of interest to former visitors, has been converted into a hospital. The Russian hut encampments are universally untidy, and emit an offensive odour, which can be perceived some distance as they are approached; and it seems a matter of little surprise that fever should prevail in such abodes. The Sardinian huts, which are made after the same fashion, present a remarkable contrast in neatness and their general well-ordered condition.

On the morning of the 9th, the following general order was issued to the troops:—

"The English army is no longer restricted from passing the Tchernaya; all officers are to be present in camp at night, and all non-commissioned officers and men to be present at the usual roll-calls, unless they are in possession of written passes from their own commanding officers."

RUSSIANS BUYING UP PROVISIONS—ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS.

The Russian officers have been buying up all the supplies they could obtain at Kadikoi, little Kamiesch, and the several bazars and caucuses. Groceries seem to be chiefly sought after. They bring in arbutos for the conveyance of the goods purchased. The Russian soldiers seem to be more addicted to intoxication than any classes of soldiers in the Allied armies,

judging from the few who leave the camps in a sober state. Several accidents have occurred from drunken men, as they were returning by the steep road leading down to the Inkermann Valley, rolling over the precipice, along the side of which the road has been cut. There is no wall, nor any other obstacle, to prevent such occurrences, but no danger exists with ordinary precaution in the day-time, as the roadway is sufficiently wide for two vehicles to pass without inconvenience. There are not many Greeks among the visitors to our camps from the north side, or at least if they come they do not wear their national costume. They do not apparently find much favour among their Russian companions, for these latter attribute to them many atrocities. They also advise visitors from the English and French camps who purpose travelling into the interior, not to go without revolvers after nightfall, and never singly, on account of these Greeks, who are said to be ready in all directions to commit robberies, and to have little hesitation, for the sake of gain, of committing murder.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE EVACUATION OF THE CRIMEA.

The preparations for the speedy evacuation of the Crimea are pressed on with rapidity and energy. Each division collects about 4,000 shot a-day, and they are carried to Balaklava as fast as the means at our disposal—railway and land transport—will permit. It is stated that 6,000 Sardinians will be the first to leave, and the Guards will probably be the first English troops to quit the scene of their suffering, of their endurance, and of their glory. Alas! how many will lie here till the Judgment Day!

REVIEW ON THE MACKENZIE PLATEAU.

April 13.—General Liders reviewed a body of Russian troops on the Mackenzie plateau, in presence of Marshal Pelissier and Generals Collington and La Marmora, who had been invited to witness the inspection. The stated number of Russian soldiers present was ten thousand, but the general calculation was that not more than eight thousand were assembled. They seemed to be picked men, were cleanly and well attired, and marched past in excellent time and order. The bands, each containing from sixty to seventy musicians, were much admired. After the review, General Liders gave a *dejeuner*, at which the commanders of the Allied armies, and many other officers, were present.

DEPARTURE OF FRENCH AND SARDINIAN SOLDIERS.

April 14.—The French soldiers of the class 1848 have all left for France, and to-day those of the class 1849, who have just completed their period of service, are marching to Kamiesch for embarkation. To-morrow Marshal Pelissier is to review the main body of the French army in the Crimea, when General Liders is expected to be present. The Sardinians have commenced their departure. They are embarking in English transports, and, it is said, the English troops will not leave, with the exception of the Brigade of Guards, until the whole of our Sardinian Allies have quitted the Crimea.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN QUESTION.

THE correspondence between the Governments of England and the United States on this subject has been published in a Blue Book. The greater portion of it has been already published in one form or another in our columns. The only new documents of any interest are the following:—

THE EARL OF CLARENDON TO MR. CHAMPTON.

Foreign Office, February 8, 1856.
Sir,—Mr. Buchanan called here two days ago, and with reference to a statement of mine in the House of Lords on the 31st ultimo, that her Majesty's Government had offered to the United States Government to refer to arbitration the interpretation of the treaty of 1850, said he had not understood that any such offer had been officially and formally made to him, although he admitted that it had frequently been mentioned by me.

I told Mr. Buchanan that I received this communication with the utmost surprise, and that I really was at a loss to understand it, as the offer had been made by me in the most formal manner by direction of the Cabinet; that he had discussed with me the objections to the course, and the difficulty of selecting any Power whom both parties would regard as impartial; that, in fact, we had hardly ever discussed the Central American question together, without my saying that arbitration would be the fairest way of settling the matter; and that nearly three months ago I had again called his attention to the offer of her Majesty's Government, which he had promised to report to his Government. I then read to Mr. Buchanan my despatch to you dated November 10, the correctness of which he did not dispute, and I said I had thought it right, in the event of any correspondence being laid before Congress, that the proposal of her Majesty's Government should be made known officially to Mr. Marey through you, otherwise I had not been in the habit of addressing public dispatches to you on the subject, as I felt that Mr. Marey considered that the question was entirely in Mr. Buchanan's hands. Indeed, I had, as much as possible, avoided writing upon the matter, and had, therefore, not answered Mr. Buchanan's last note, although there was much in it that merited reply, because I wished to avoid all cause of irritation, and any reason to think that this correspondence might assume a polemical and angry tone. I had given him therefore the advantage of the last word, and my communications had all been verbal, but it was a great satisfaction to me to reflect that neither upon that, nor upon any other subject, in the course of two years, had a hasty word passed between us, or anything that would not tend to promote kindly feelings between us respective countries.

Mr. Buchanan cordially concurred as to the friendly character of our relations, and said that although he had not considered the offer of arbitration to have been made in a formal manner, yet that he had invariably reported to his Government everything that had fallen from me on the subject.

In answer to an inquiry from me, Mr. Buchanan added that no notice had been taken of the offer of arbitration by his Government.—I am, &c.,

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

MR. CHAMPTON TO THE EARL OF CLARENDON.—(RECEIVED MARCH 18.)

Washington, March 4, 1856.
My Lord,—With reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 8th ult., informing me that, to your Lordship's great surprise, Mr. Buchanan had stated to you that he had not understood of your Lordship as having proposed formally to submit to arbitration the points in dispute between the two Governments in respect to the interpretation of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, I learnt with equal surprise, a few days since, before the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, that the Government of the United States were under the same impression, and that the President intended, in answer to an inquiry on the part of the Senate, to send a message to that body, in which it would be stated that no such offer had ever been understood to have been made.

Your Lordship has on so many occasions, in your official as well as in your official correspondence with me, alluded to this proposal having been made by you to Mr. Buchanan, that it did not occur to me as possible that he had not conveyed it to his Government; and as the subject of the Central American question, the negotiation of which Mr. Marey had on several occasions informed me he considered to have been, on the part of the American Government, confided exclusively to Mr. Buchanan's hands, had not, consequently, come under discussion between Mr. Marey and myself, I did not conceive it to be necessary or desirable that I should originate any conversation on that topic, or make him a formal communication of the information conveyed to me by your Lordship's despatch of the 10th November last.

On receiving the above information of the misapprehension of the United States Government, I referred to that despatch, and finding that it contained an instruction to me to communicate it to Mr. Marey, I immediately did so with a short explanatory note.

I must certainly take blame to myself for not having executed the instructions at an earlier period; but I confess that the passage of the despatch conveying it to me had escaped my attention, and I had looked on the despatch as intended to apprise me of what was going forward, rather than as an instruction to make a formal offer of arbitration to the United States Government.

Under this impression, I thought it would be better for me to defer speaking to Mr. Marey on the subject of the proposed arbitration until he should allude to it, for I apprehended that my interference in the matter might be taken as an undue intermeddling in a negotiation not under my charge, and as evincing a precaution which might not be well received, intended to guard against some presumed negligence on Mr. Buchanan's part, which ought not to have been supposed possible by her Majesty's Government.

In the meantime I lost no opportunity of stating to leading senators, and other persons, that such an offer had been made by her Majesty's Government.

Congress is now, however, in possession of the fact; and although certain senators, and certain newspapers, have thought proper to attribute to her Majesty's Government and myself the most extraordinary motives for what they consider to be your Lordship's negligence, and not Mr. Buchanan's misapprehension, I am quite at a loss to conceive what object they can possibly imagine her Majesty's Government could have in misleading the Government of the United States, and thus defeating, for a time, the object which her Majesty's Government themselves had in view.

I have only to repeat to your Lordship the regret that an oversight of my own may have, in any sort, contributed to prolong the erroneous impression produced by Mr. Buchanan's mistake of your Lordship's meaning.

I have the honour to enclose copies of the correspondence laid before Congress upon this subject.—I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JOHN F. CHAMPTON.

THE DEPOSIT AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

A WEEK or two since, we, in common with other journals, commented upon the dispute between the directors of the above Company and its auditors, and, in the course of our remarks, gave some extracts from the said auditors' report. This has induced the Secretary of the Company to favour us with a very lengthy communication, which he desires we should print. Our space, we are sorry to say, does not admit of our obliging him to the extent of his wishes. We have read through his letter and its enclosures with attention, and as we think that the document issued by the Chairman of the Company, in reply to inquiries addressed to him by a policyholder, puts the question, so far as the Company is concerned, in a very plain light, we extract its more important passages:—

"In answer to your very natural question as regards yourself and other insurers, whether your money is safe, my answer is, undoubtedly it is so. Admit, if you like, for the sake of argument, that we wind up to-morrow; there is not an office in London which would not be too glad to take over our business of our hands. I believe we could sell that business for a considerable sum. Your position would be this: you would find yourself insured in some other office instead of in the present one. Well, admit that there are certain existing claims and some debt to be paid off, which other offices would have nothing to do with in making their bargain, our position again is this: we have not only assets and divers securities to set off against those claims and that debt in winding-up, but we have nearly £300,000 of capital, which the law gives the Vice-Chancellor power to call up; every debt would be paid; every bond the policy would be transferred to some other office. The insurers would suffer nothing; the shareholders a certain loss. Such is the worst side of the picture; such is the fate to which the Deposit Life Office may be driven if all public confidence fails. But such is not the fate which the present directors deserve, were the whole history of the office known; nor is it the fate which the office will have to contend against if their present machinery is allowed fair play. The present directors are the only creditors almost the company have. The directors neither receive remuneration for their services, nor do they make any claims on the funds of the company for the present. They have agreed among themselves to allow their advances to remain untouched; they do not even at present draw interest for those advances; they trust entirely to the future, and when a dividend was declared last year, the directors did not draw that money out, they allowed it to remain. This year they did not recommend a dividend, and though the shareholders gave them the power to pay such dividend, it was distinctly stated by myself at the meeting that we should not avail ourselves of that permission. Notoriety is always injurious, but in the present instance it cannot be avoided, and we must trust to honesty of purpose to carry us through all such attacks. Our income is now sufficient, if not interfered with, to meet all claims and expenses. Our debt is due only to ourselves, and we are willing to wait for repayment till that income is doubled. Lastly, let the worst come to the worst, we have only to turn to some other office to take our business off our hands, and thus save our insurers; and we have £300,000 unpaid capital which we can call up, or any part of it, to pay our debts. That is the exact position of the Deposit and General Life Office.—I am, &c.,

DEMLANKE, M.P.

GREAT FIRE—NINE HOUSES BURNED.—On Monday a tremendous fire commenced in the premises of Messrs. Hanneford, tailors, High Street, Edmonton. The Watling Street, Jeffrey Square, Whitecross Street, and Holborn fire-engines were soon sent to the scene, but by the time they arrived the premises were in one mass of flame. The fire caught two other houses, situated at the back of Messrs. Hanneford's premises. Shortly after the engines were called into action, the roof of the building fell with a tremendous crash. The London brigade laboured most incessantly, but still the flames kept raging, and also communicated to another house, No. 2, High Street, Edmonton, which was also burned to the ground. The burning flames were drifted by the wind on to the houses, and speedily ignited Mr. S. Allen's, bootmaker, No. 3, High Street, Mr. J. Rayburn's, butcher, No. 4, High Street, which, with their contents, were entirely gutted. The firemen, however, kept to their posts, and at length the flames subsided to their efforts. The premises of Mr. R. Godder, grocer, Mr. A. Bennett, pork-butcher, and Mr. Brauds, hair-dresser, were considerably damaged. Nothing satisfactory can be ascertained as to the origin of the fire.

IMPROPER USE OF CABS.—At a Marylebone vestry, on Sunday last, after the disposal of some general routine business, Dr. Guy brought up a report and memorial for transmission to the Home Office from the sanitary committee on the subject of the dangerous practices pursued by the drivers of cabs and other public vehicles, in conveying dead bodies and patients afflicted with fever, small pox, and other contagious diseases, in their vehicles; the report recommending that Sir George Grey, the Home Secretary, should be memorialised to stop such alarming practices, by imposing fines on the drivers, and placing other similar restrictions on persons guilty of such exceedingly dangerous practices. Dr. Guy insisted upon the desirability of putting a stop to such exceedingly alarming practices, and hoped that public conveyances would be set apart in every parish for the transmission of all persons afflicted with contagious disorders. Dr. Russell seconded the adoption of the report and memorial, and, after some discussion, the report and memorial were unanimously adopted.

GREYNA MARRIAGES.—BELL V. GRAHAM.—Judgment was given in the Carleton Consistory Court in this suit, on April 24. The suit was instituted by John Bell, Esq., barrister-at-law, and Clerk of the Peace for the county of Westmoreland, to nullify a marriage at the Sark Toll Bar, just over the Scotch Border, alleged to have been solemnised on the 13th of November, 1847, by John Murray, the bar-keeper. The Chancellor's judgment was most elaborate and complete at all points, the results of which we need only give. It appears that the marriage, intended by Mr. Bell as a sham, is pronounced valid in Scotland, the defendant herself believing that it was real; and as a valid marriage in Scotland is a legal marriage in England, it follows, so far as this decision goes, that Mr. Bell has found a wife against his will. The suit was dismissed. Mr. George Mounsey, on the part of Mr. Bell, entered a protest, and said his client would take the time allowed by law to appeal to the superior court. Mr. Saul, for the defendant, asked for costs. The Chancellor said the application was unnecessary. Mr. Bell must pay his own costs as a matter of course; and he must also pay those of his wife. The judgment is of the highest public importance. The entire case, pro and con, is set forth, and its peculiarities are placed in a strong, interesting, and instructive light. Besides all this, the Chancellor remarked on the constitution of local Consistory Courts, and commented upon the demoralising effect in the district of the Scotch marriage law—a marriage, of that kind, however repulsive, being legal in England because lawful in Scotland. The Chancellor said that it appeared that John Murray, at the Sark Toll Bar alone, performed, on the average, four hundred marriages in the year; and that on the Martinmas hiring-day at Carlisle, and a day or two on either side of it, he splices more than a hundred couple.

THE LATE SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—Government has presented to Mr. Grinnell, of New York, a handsome silver vase, in acknowledgment of his services in fitting out, at his own expense, an expedition in search of the late Sir John Franklin. They have also presented a silver tea service and silver to Dr. Kane, who conducted it, and gold medals for Dr. Kane and the other officers, and silver medals for the crew—the articles bearing suitable inscriptions.

THE FLEET PHOTOGRAPHED.—Some very interesting Photographs of the Fleet have been already taken by Mr. R. H. C. Ussell, of Portsmouth, who, we understand, is commissioned to execute a series. One or two that we have seen are beautiful miniature specimens of the art.

THE GREAT NAVAL REVIEW AT SPITHEAD.

THE LOUNGER AT THE REVIEW.

I TOLD you last week that I was going to the Naval Review, and that I intended to enjoy myself. I did both, and I firmly believe that there are not ten other men in London who can say the same. It was all done by a little management. Being of the streets streetly, and having during my time seen perhaps as many phases of London life as most men, I know perfectly all the horrors, inconveniences, and annoyances of a crowd. I was at the pit door of the Opera from two o'clock in the afternoon till half-past seven in the evening, on the first occasion of the appearance of Jenny Lind; I was for two hours fighting in front of the Brighton Railway station, on the first Derby-day that the Epsom line was opened; and on the latter occasion, though a tolerably stout man, I got punished so severely that I made up my mind to shun thenceforth the "maddening crowd's ignoble strife." These feelings guided my proceedings last week. When I heard that everybody was going at five o'clock in the morning, I knew what that meant, and determined to start quietly on Tuesday night. Moreover, I had changed my venue, for having late on Monday night discovered that the "party" whom I honour with adoration had altered her plans, and was going with some friends on board the *Simla*, one of the magnificent fleet of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, by the exercise of much strategic talent, I procured a ticket for the same vessel, and went quietly down to Southampton by the five o'clock train, on Tuesday evening. Even so early as this there was a mob at the Waterloo station, and a difficulty in getting tickets; but luck stood my friend for once in my life, and I found myself seated in the very carriage where my friends were. Long was the journey, but pleasant—pleasant were the hard-boiled eggs with which, with the foresight of an old traveller, I had provided myself, and which I liberally dispensed to my fellow-passengers—pleasant was the bitter beer, surreptitiously procured by the aid of a porter at the Basing-

stoke station—pleasant, rationally pleasant, was the conversation of an American gentleman from South Carolina, who was going to see the Review from the United States packet, *Hermann*, who was going to return in her the next day, and who declared that nothing, not even an almighty advance of ten thousand dollars, should keep him longer from his native land. At length our journey was ended, and, lighting our way through the footling-boys, whose pressing offers to carry my luggage I refused, we arrived at that part of the docks where the *Simla* was lying, and went on board. Sell number one.—Not a birth to be had on board the *Simla* for love or money. We men could do well enough with rugs and wraps, but the ladies must be better provided for, so, after a long discussion, and through the never-to-be-forgotten kindness of two of the ship's officers, we were accommodated with berths on board the *Ensign*, a ship belonging to the same company, and went thither with an understanding that we were to return to breakfast the first thing in the morning. That was a wonderful night. The ladies having retired, I and a friend tried the quality of the P. and O. story, and then proceeded to smoke a cigar on deck. While engaged in this pleasant occupation, we were accosted by a tall man in spectacles, who abruptly commenced his conversation with—"Can you tell me, gentlemen, what I've dreamt just now, in the fore-cabin?" We professed our inability to enlighten him, and he went on to say that he had stepped in to the fore-cabin, and, feeling thirsty, had drunk copiously of a fluid which, he added expressively, "was not water." Repudiating any suggestion of gin, he told us that immediately after drinking, he had experienced a burning sensation, and that at the present time he felt particularly unwell. At a later period of the night, our spectacled friend again joined us, and in melancholy tones informed us that he had discovered he had swallowed a solution of hartshorn, which a sailor, afflicted with lumbago, had been using to disperse the inflammation. We endeavoured to console him, and he departed; and we were then joined by a very different kind of person, an M.P., who fortunately knew too much of Admiralty arrangements to trust to them, and who talked in a most rational practical manner on many matters connected with the navy and the mercantile marine. From him I learnt that the first steamer which crossed the Atlantic was called the *Comet*, and that she started on her first trip on November 11th, 1811; that Mr. Conrad, the original enterpriser, first calculated that a vessel of 800 tons would be of sufficient calibre for the voyage, but that he found his statistics wrong, and that all ships on that line now average 2,000 tons burden; that the General Screw Company had sold all their interest in their ships to a French company; and many other interesting matters. And then I went to bed, but not to sleep—for my bed was a sofa, and the horsehair scrubbed my face, and the light glared in my eyes, and the gentleman, who, unable to obtain any other resting-place, had stretched himself on the floor under the cabin table, suffered his feet to protrude, and was ineffectually stumbling over, and anathematised by passers by during the entire night. So I yawned, and stretched, and closed my eyes, and made feeble and ineffectual attempts at sleep until five o'clock, when I gave up the effort in despair, roused, had an apology for a bath, and went on deck. Such a glorious morning—pure, fresh, and clear air, and magnificent sky; the sun shining brightly on the still water in the dock, and gauding back from the clean, fresh-painted ships by which we were surrounded. There were all those vessels with whose names we have been made familiar, during the past two years, in the "Naval and Military Intelligence," the *Ripon*, *Orinoco*, *La Plata*, *Atrato*, *Simla*, *Queen of the South*, *Himalaya*, *Harbinger*, and a hundred others which have been engaged in conveying our best and bravest to the Crimea, or in bringing back the maimed and worn-out to their native land. There was no time, however, for such thoughts as these; the docks, crowded with carpet-bag-carrying-passengers, warned us that we were not yet on board the ship which was to be our home for the day, and, accordingly, hurrying from the *Ensign*, we made the best of our way to the *Simla*. There we found all bustle and activity; the boatswain's whistle piped, as we crossed the gangway, and, as we stepped on board, all the men were mustered for inspection in the bows. The next two hours were consumed in wandering about the ship and looking at the people coming on board; and it was amusing to note the difference between those who had evidently had a good night's rest and indulged in the luxury of a bath and a shave, with the poor, dirty, hot, crumpled wretches who had come down from town by the morning's train. About eight o'clock some of the steamers got under way—the *Atrato*, the *Ensign*, the *Ripon* went first, and then the mighty *Simla*, the largest merchant steamer afloat, with the exception of the *Himalaya*, slowly swung round from the corner of the dock where she was lying, and made her way majestically through the smaller craft. In the offing lay the *Perseverance* and the *Transit*, which were pointed out to me by one of the ship's officers, and I also saw the tenders waiting for the conveyance of the Members of both Houses, but I had little idea of the misery that was in store for our legislators, nor had Captain McDougal, the Admiralty Superintendent, who was rushing about in the greatest excitement, and apparently wondering what had become of those entrusted to his charge. Although the morning was glorious, and the scene, even from the commencement, most interesting to a landsman like myself, I was not sorry when a murmur ran through the vessel that breakfast was ready, and on descending I managed to do justice to the P. and O. Company's hospitality. Then a cigar and a stroll on the deck, looking at the coast of the Isle of Wight, and pointing out the scene of many bye-gone summer festivities. About half-past ten we caught our first glimpse of the fleet, and certainly I, who go on the "nil admirari" principle, and pretend to be used up, worn out, and utterly inexecutable, must confess that I cannot recollect so grand a spectacle.

The scene on the land was scarcely less marvellous; from Southsea Castle to Fort Monckton the shore was black with human beings, stands were erected, tents and pavilions were dotted here and there, and by the aid of the glass we could descry hundreds of vehicles along the shore. Just about twelve o'clock, when a fatal longing for sandwiches was beginning to be felt, some one cried out that the Royal yacht was steaming out of Portsmouth harbour, and turning my glass that way, I soon descried her whitey-brown funnels, and three raking masts. She came on at an extraordinary pace, and as she passed the Spit buoy, the *Duke of Wellington* pealed forth the first gun of the salute, instantly followed by every other ship along each line. Shortly afterwards, the yards were manned; and from the moment I saw that wonderful evolution performed (and I watched it narrowly through my glass), I gave myself to simple staring and astonishment. Henceforth I am not prepared to give any accurate account of the proceedings. I saw those extraordinary blunt-nosed, wicked-looking gun-boats proceed in line round the men-of-war, and stand in for the shore; I saw all the line-of-battle ships, with the *Duke of Wellington* at their head, weigh anchor, and stand out in the wake of her Majesty's yacht, run up to the pivot-ships, turn round, and steam back again. I noticed that the flags were not "dipped," as is usual, while this manoeuvre was being executed; and I noticed further, that all the naval men on board our steamer spoke in raptures of the *Conqueror* as the finest vessel in the fleet. I conclude the Queen was getting weary of the day (and I don't wonder at it, for it seemed to me as though I had been away from town for a fortnight), for before the last of the vessels had passed in review, the Royal yacht was off to where the gun-boats were mustered off the forts. And then took place what I am told by veracious people was an attack by the gun-boats on Southsea Castle. All I can say is, I am glad to hear it. I heard a tremendous roar, and saw a tremendous smoke; beyond that, I am utterly ignorant. A friend tells me it was one of the best parts of the whole affair; that the gun-boats poured in their 68-pounders on the Castle; that they were assisted by the "white division" and by the "red squadron," the latter of which devoted itself to the annihilation of Fort Monckton. I am afraid that, so far as regards the spectators, this part of the review was a failure; for those on land were so frightened at the tremendous violence of the discharge, that they fled on all sides from the neighbourhood of the Castle; while the dense clouds of smoke prevented any persons on board the neighbouring vessels from getting any view of the operations. We on board the *Simla* had dined in the middle of the day, and immediately after the gun-boat attack, we set off on our return, reaching Southampton Water about half-past eight. And there we lay for more than half-an-hour, until a small boat with four rowers came alongside, my party engaged it, and after an hour's pull, we were safely landed in

Southampton Harbour. It was a cheerful sight to your contributor, while calmly discussing broiled fowl and mushrooms in Rutley's Hotel, to witness the furious rows, fights, and crowdings of about 1,500 persons gathered round the railway station on-site. It was delightful, also, for your contributor, at a later period of the evening, while smoking his cigar on the steps of the said hotel, to hear various tales of intense calumny declare that they had given sums varying from two to five guineas a piece for beds in the town, your contributor knowing that he had engaged a most clean and comfortable room for the modest sum of 10s. It was a matter of joy to your contributor, when he came down to breakfast the next morning, to think that he had adopted a prudent course, and had not been one of the mob, who, said the railway officials, had been despatched in perpetual trains even as late as three o'clock in the morning.

Your contributor thought he did the right thing, when, in stead of casting himself (being accompanied by ladies) into the throng still fighting round the railway station, he engaged a trap, and went quietly over to Netley Abbey, returning in time to catch the three o'clock train, and to arrive in town in time for dinner.

But your contributor was inevitably disgusted on perusing the "Times" to discover that he, and nearly everybody else, had not seen the greatest sight of the whole—the illumination of the fleet.

A friend of mine, who, by the luckiest chance, was unable to get ashore from the *Retribution*, and so slept on board, describes the scene as unparalleled. At nine o'clock gun-fire, the whole fleet burst into light, as if by magic; every port-hole was lit by a shining "blue light," which showed a vivid glare between decks, and a shower of rockets was kept up from the various ships for the space of an hour.

THE MISHAPS OF THE PEERS AT THE REVIEW.

In our last week's account of the doings at the Grand Naval Review, we gave a sketch of the House of Commons afloat, from the lively pen of one of its Members. The Lords, who the Lower House had to encounter were, however, but trifling compared to those endured by the Peers, if we may judge from the statements made in the House of Lords the day following. After detailing the mishap of the break-down on the Railway, which was common to both Houses, one Noble Lord observed:—"Between twelve and one o'clock, the salute on the arrival of her Majesty having been fired an hour and a half before, the *Transit*, which has been appropriated to the conveyance of their Lordships, got under way. She had not, however, proceeded far before she was passed by the *Perseverance*, having on board the Members of the House of Commons, and the second estate of the realm became the third, in which position it continued during the remainder of the day. In the course of time, the *Transit*, notwithstanding the defective engines with which she was supplied, reached the pivot-ships at the easternmost point of the line, from which position they witnessed that grand and magnificent motion, the advance and wheeling of the line of ships, the only spectacle they had to repay them for the fatigue which they had undergone. The *Transit* had been supplied with engines which were originally made for the Emperor of Russia, and were so defective in construction that on her last voyage to the Mediterranean the whole of her machinery gave way, and it had not since been put into proper condition. The result was, that in a short time, this immense ship, of 2,400 tons burden, became almost like a log upon the water. By orders from high authorities, it was forbidden to make any smoke; without making smoke a fire could not be made sufficient to get up the steam, and the result was that on the return she hardly made any way. Little as was the way she made it was, unfortunately, enough for her to run down a gun-boat. Although she did this, however, she did not make way enough to enable their Lordships to reach the harbour of Southampton until ten o'clock. At that time the return was effected by a very small steamer called the *Monkey*, owing to the disproportion between which and the *Transit*, and the consequent crowding of the former, there was a great deal of inconvenience and not a little danger. The latter was considerably increased by the fact that the tiller ropes of the *Monkey* broke, owing to which there was much difficulty and delay in whirling that vessel. There was then a rush to the railway station. Ladies and gentlemen, noble lords and right rev. prelates, all made for the station as fast as possible. First-class carriages were soon occupied, second-class ones were in requisition, and one right reverend prelate and a privy councillor took refuge in a third-class carriage. At last the train reached London, and their Lordships were deposited at the railway station at three o'clock in the morning. The termination of this day of pleasure was that noble lords and ladies were running about the platform without a carriage or a cab to take them home."

Lord Campbell stated, that when the *Transit* weighed anchor it was necessary for two learned judges who were on board to work at the capstan. "We had three right rev. prelates on board," he continued, "but I do not know whether they lent a hand or not. It was eleven o'clock before we left Southampton, and such a scene of confusion I hope I shall never witness again. Judges, prelates, and ladies of high rank were scrambling for places, just as though it were a cheap excursion train."

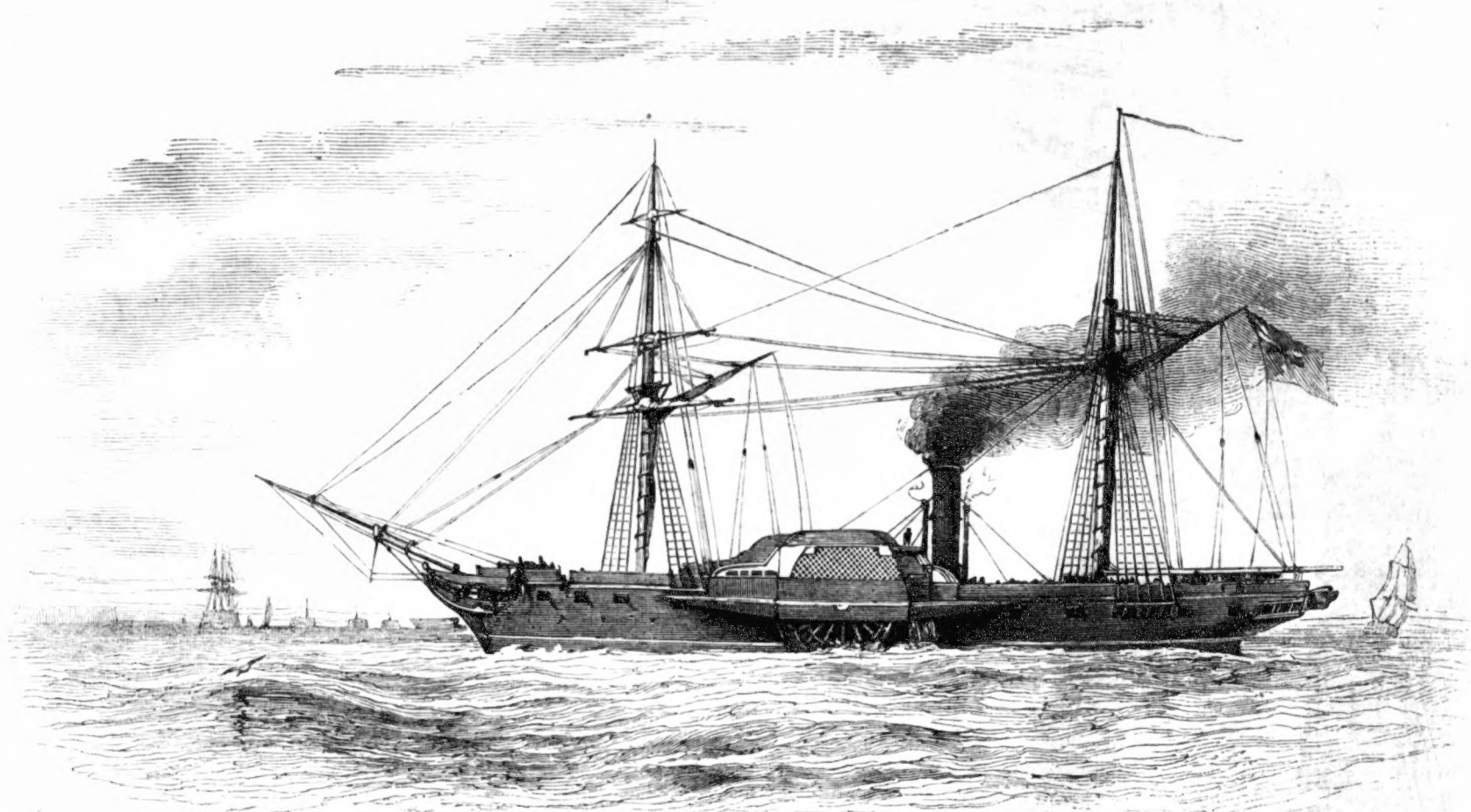
THE RETRIBUTION, STEAM FRIGATE.

The *Retribution*, which led the line of paddle-wheel steamers last week, at the Grand Naval Review at Spithead, was built at Chatham, about twelve years ago, by the Master Shipwright of that yard, according to the specifications of the then Surveyor of the Navy. At the launch, she was universally admired by those who witnessed what they considered to be, her majestic entry into the water; and, on her arrival at Blackwall, a numerous party of eminent men, including Members of the Board of Admiralty and Foreign Ambassadors, expressed the highest admiration of the beautiful structure, and of the splendid workmanship of her engines. Her dimensions are: length, 220 ft. breadth, 40 ft. depth, 28 ft. 4 in.; tonnage, 1641 tons. The engine-room is 72 feet in length, nearly 40 feet wide, and 24 feet in height; and the whole weight of the engines, when the boilers are empty, about 560 tons.

It is somewhat remarkable that this vessel, which twelve years since was admired as a model, was pointed out at Spithead, the other day, and spoken of, as the "ill-shapen, wall-sided *Retribution*."

THE EMBARKATION OF THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY—THE REVIEW, AS SEEN FROM THE SHORE.

At a very early hour in the morning the various piers in Portsmouth, Portsea, and Gosport were crowded with visitors anxious to "take the water," and get a good view of the fleet. As nine o'clock came, the different piers became as full as they could hold, and the vessels lying alongside were literally crammed with spectators. The mouth of the harbour presented an animated scene, vessel after vessel, craft after craft, came issuing forth, and still others followed as fast as ever. The strangers were constantly asking where all the vessels came from, and what place there was round the corner, pointing to the Round Tower Batteries, little fancying that it was Portsmouth Harbour out of which had come if not the whole of the fleet—certainly the largest and most important part. About ten o'clock an immense brig came out, crowded in every part from stem to stern, without masts or any appearance of ropes, &c.—it was a great floating lump propelled by the screw. This specimen was selected for the officers of the Royal Dockyard; and heartily did the people laugh when they were told by a wag that the Government had let it to the sweeps. From this time till her Majesty's yacht, the *Victoria* and *Albert*, appeared, nothing could have exceeded the beauty of the spectacle. Steamers of very large size began to leave the harbour, the Lords of the Admiralty embarked on board the *Black Eagle*, and the way was made clear for the Royal Yacht. At about ten minutes to twelve, a hangle sounded from one of the round towers, and was taken up along the line of fortifications, to prepare to salute, the Queen having arrived. In a few minutes, the booming of the *Victoria*'s guns told us that her Majesty was afloat. All eyes were directed to the harbour's mouth. When the giant ship appeared, shouts and hurrahs rent the air. The guns on the batteries began their salute; and, in a few moments more, the whole line from the Nab to Cowes was one mass of fire and smoke, telling the thousands and thousands assembled that the Review had begun. Her Majesty then passed down the fleet, and led up through it, followed by swarms of gun-boats. These made their way to Southsea Castle, while her Majesty led the armada out to sea. All that could be hoped for was realised, and a more splendid spectacle had never before been witnessed. The opportunities for seeing were such as no other place could have offered.



THE RETRIBUTION, STEAM-FRIGATE, FLAG OF REAR-ADMIRAL BAYNES, C.B.

From the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour to past Eastney Fort and Lumps Lane End (about three miles) there extends a beach and common, which was fully sufficient to give every one a fair view. Along the whole line of beach and common there were stands for refreshments, which suited the most refined and the most humble. Some thousands of carriages and conveyances lined the shore, but so vast was the accommodation that it did not incommode those who had only standing places; indeed all seemed determined to make a happy day of it, and if a splendid spectacle could feed the mind, surely all must have had enough. The return of the fleet was the signal for the attack by the gun-boats. This commenced about a quarter to five, and in a few minutes the four divisions were blazing away with their 68s for a length of about three miles. This was beautiful in the extreme. The crafts along the shore coming out in full relief against the pearly white of their smoke, which soon ascended high into the air, and formed most fantastic rings. After a long continuance, when all thought it was over, her Majesty took her departure, and by this time the smoke had begun to clear away, when the fleet again became visible, coming up to their positions at

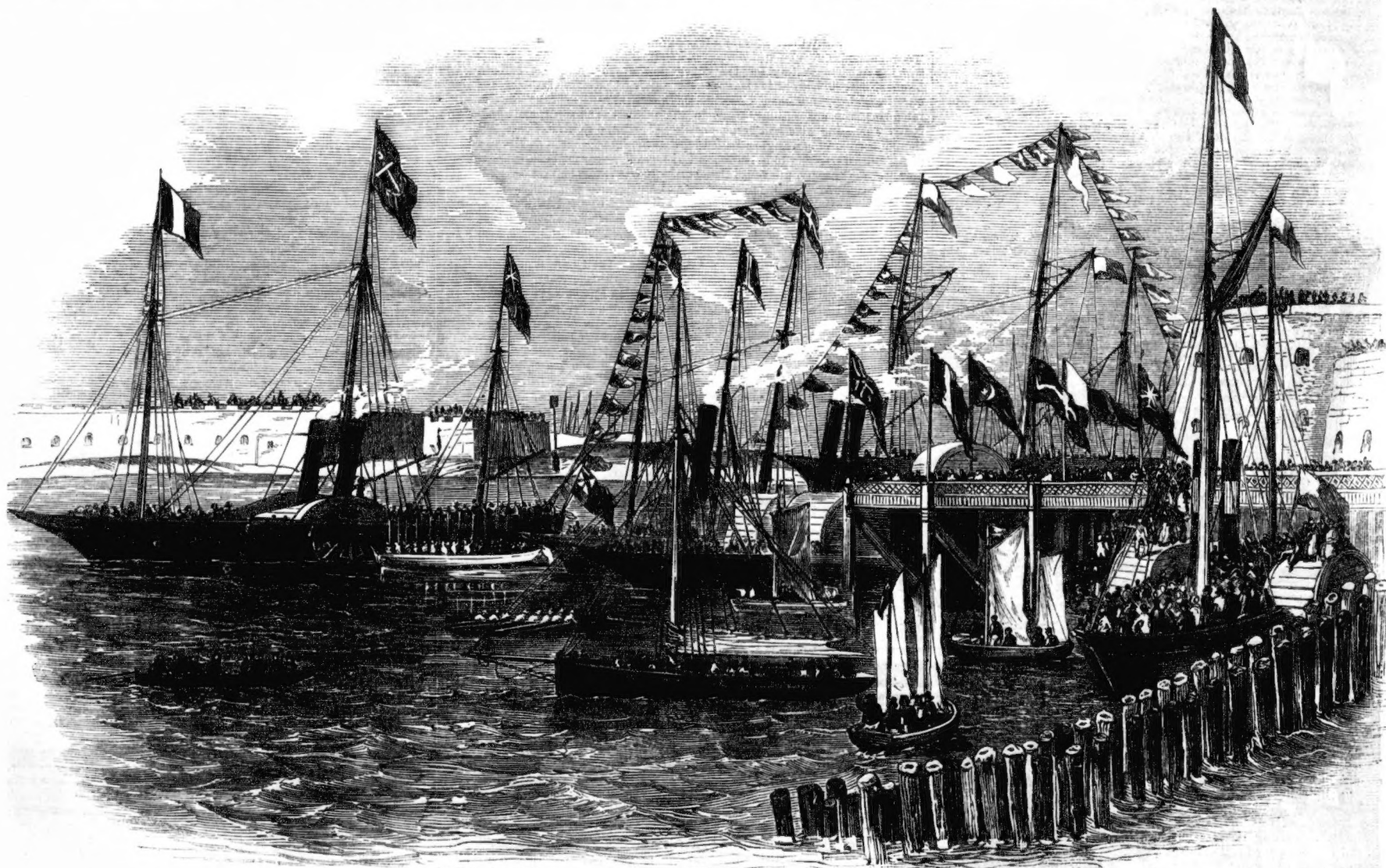
Spithead, the *Duke* leading. In a few instants, the whole line-of-battle ships, frigates, steamers, &c., gave a parting salute. All this was now visible to the multitudes on the shore, and as her Majesty passed down the line from the Spit Buoy to Portsmouth Harbour, shouts rent the air; and the enthusiasm displayed was such as never will be forgotten by those who witnessed it. The crowd of steamers and yachts which followed into the harbour made this last portion of the scene most animating: all were going one way, and that was following the Queen.

The 'busses now began to ply; and "Railway, gentlemen," "Cab, gentlemen," became the order of the day; but this would not have been so, had the thousands who left been aware of the treat in store.

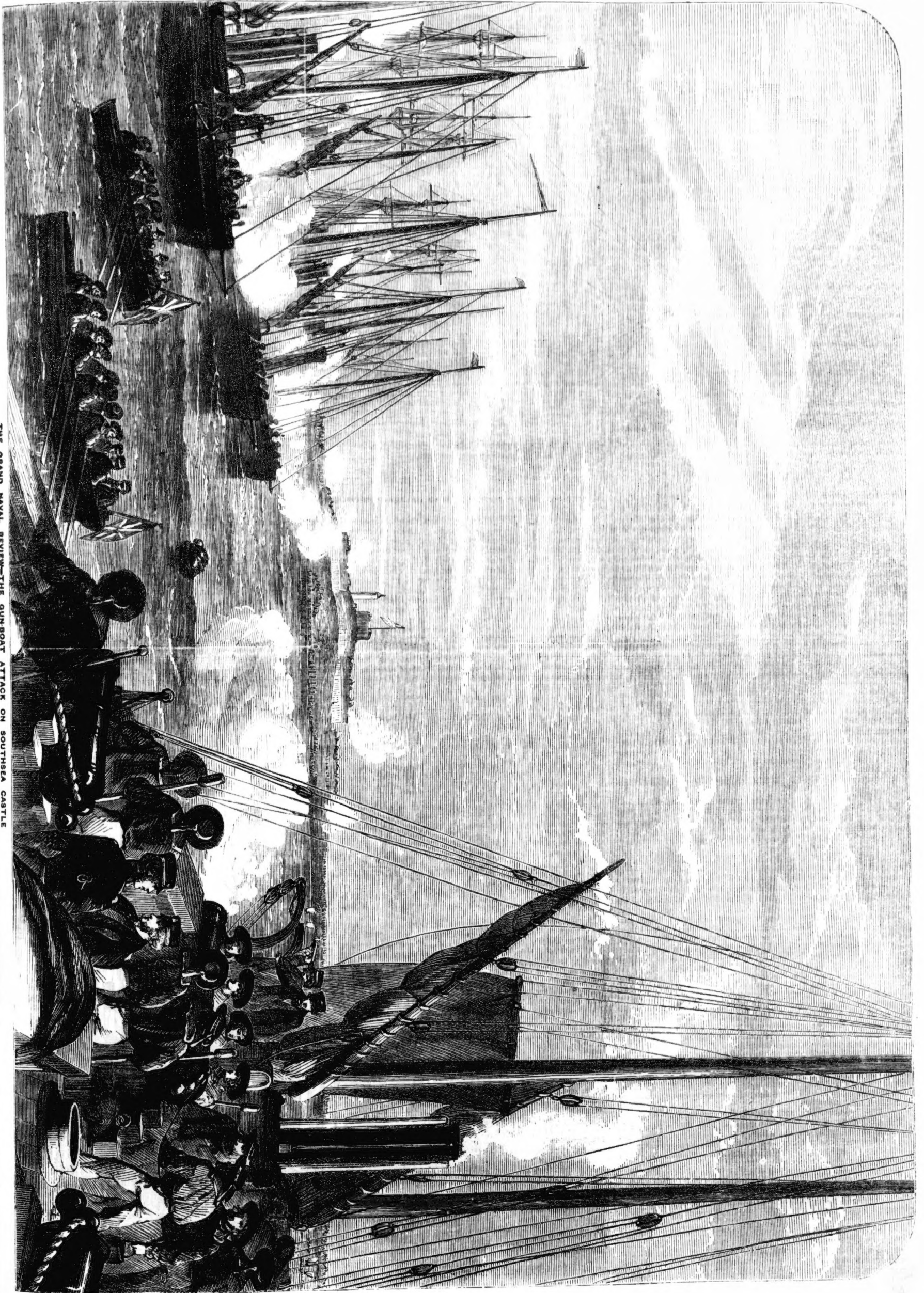
At nine in the evening, a signal gun was fired, and the whole of this gigantic fleet was illuminated from the top to the bottom. All this was done in an instant, and the effect was magical. Only a few moments before, and nought could be seen but the drowsy waterman bringing ashore tired spectators. The vessels were nearly all moored and snug for the night, except here and there a few dull lights, and still duller music (the drum

being particularly desirous to be heard). Upon the lighting up of the fleet the whole scene was, as it were, "brought back to life"—shouts and huzzas were heard from every shore, and from those afloat the "National Anthem" and "Rule Britannia" were struck up—boats were again in motion, steamers gliding to and fro, vessels passing and repassing—indeed, the whole was a thing of magic. It was more like a splendid dream of Turner than any earthly thing. The water became liquid fire, the rockets illumined the clouds and vapour, and were again reflected, so that they appeared to drop fire at our feet. To attempt a fuller description is useless. Only conceive the late great Turner taking such a subject for his pencil, and then you would have had some idea of the effects produced by light colour, shadow, and contrast.

The town was illuminated in several places. The most elegant was that of Mr. Joseph Galt, the Royal naval outfitter, who decorated his premises with the flags of the Allies, V.R., and the Royal Navy, in gas jets. By twelve o'clock the town became quiet, and thus passed off one of the most memorable days Portsmouth has ever seen.



THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY EMBARKING AT VICTORIA PIER.—(FROM A SKETCH BY R. H. C. UBSDELL.)



THE GRAND NAVAL REVIEW—THE GUNBOAT ATTACK ON SOUTHSEA CASTLE

RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF PEACE.

THE Hon. William Stuart, First Attaché to her Majesty's Embassy at Paris, arrived on Monday, at the Foreign Office, being the bearer of the ratification by their Majesties the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the King of Prussia, the Emperor of all the Russias, the King of Sardinia, and the Sultan, of the definitive treaty for the restoration of peace, and for the maintenance of the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire, which was signed at Paris on the 30th of March last.

BY THE QUEEN.—A PROCLAMATION.

VICTORIA R.—Whereas, a definitive treaty of peace and friendship between us and our allies and his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, was concluded at Paris, on the 30th day of March last, and the ratification thereof have now been duly exchanged; in conformity therewith we have thought fit hereby to command that the same be published throughout all our dominions; and we do declare to all our loving subjects our will and pleasure that the said treaty of peace and friendship be observed inviolably, as well by sea as by land, and in all cases whatsoever; strictly observing, and commanding all our loving subjects to take notice hereof, and to conform themselves thereto accordingly.

Given at our Court at Buckingham Palace this 28th day of April, in the year of our Lord 1856, and in the 20th year of our reign.

God save the Queen.

BY THE QUEEN.—A PROCLAMATION FOR A PUBLIC THANKSGIVING.

VICTORIA R.—Whereas, it hath pleased Almighty God, in His great goodness, to put an end to the warfare in which we have been engaged against the Emperor of Russia, and to restore peace to Europe; we, therefore, adoring the Divine Goodness, and duly considering that the great and public blessings of peace do call for public and solemn acknowledgments, have thought fit, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, to issue this proclamation, hereby appointing that a General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for these His mercies be observed throughout those parts of the United Kingdom called England and Ireland, on Sunday, the 4th day of May next; and we do earnestly exhort all our loving subjects that they do religiously observe the said public Day of Thanksgiving; and, for the better and more devout solemnisation of the same, we have given directions to the Most Reverend the Archbishops and the Right Reverend the Bishops of England to compose a Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving suitable to this occasion, to be used in all churches and chapels, and other places of public worship, and to take care for the timely dispersing of the same throughout their respective dioceses.

Given at our Court at Buckingham Palace, the 28th day of April, in the year of our Lord 1856, and in the 19th year of our reign.

God save the Queen.

[A similar proclamation was, as usual in such cases, given by the Queen for Scotland.]

THE TREATY OF PEACE.

(TRANSLATION.)

GENERAL TREATY BETWEEN HER MAJESTY, THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA, THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH, THE KING OF PRUSSIA, THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA, THE KING OF SARDINIA, AND THE SULTAN. (Signed at Paris, March 30, 1856. Ratifications exchanged at Paris, April 27.)

In the Name of Almighty God.

Their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Emperor of the French, the Emperor of all the Russias, the King of Sardinia, and the Emperor of the Ottomans, animated by the desire of putting an end to the calamities of war, and wishing to prevent the return of the complications which occasioned it, resolved to come to an understanding with his Majesty the Emperor of Austria, as to the bases on which peace might be re-established and consolidated, by securing through effectual and reciprocal guarantees the independence and integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

For this purpose their said Majesties named as their Plenipotentiaries that is to say:—

(Here follows a list of the various Plenipotentiaries.)

Which Plenipotentiaries assembled in Congress at Paris.

An understanding having been happily established between them, their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the Emperor of all the Russias, the King of Sardinia, and the Emperor of the Ottomans, considering that, in the interest of Europe, his Majesty the King of Prussia, a signing party to the Convention of the 13th of July, 1841, should be invited to participate in the new arrangements to be adopted, and appreciating the value that the concurrence of his said Majesty would add to a work of general pacification, invited him to send Plenipotentiaries to the Congress.

In consequence, his Majesty the King of Prussia named as his Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:—

(Here follow the names of the Prussian Plenipotentiaries.)

The Plenipotentiaries, after having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the thirty-four articles, which will be found in our last week's impression.

[We subjoin Articles 5, 6, 7, and 8, which were not given in the copy of the Treaty we published last week.]

Art. 5. Their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Emperor of the French, the Emperor of all the Russias, the King of Sardinia, and the Sultan, grant a full and entire amnesty to those of their subjects who may have been compromised by any participation whatsoever in the events of the war in favour of the cause of the enemy.

It is expressly understood that such amnesty shall extend to the subjects of each of the belligerent parties who may have continued during the war to be employed in the service of one of the other belligerents.

Art. 6. Prisoners of war shall be immediately given up on either side.

Art. 7. Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, his Majesty the Emperor of Austria, his Majesty the Emperor of the French, his Majesty the King of Prussia, his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, and his Majesty the King of Sardinia, declare the Sublime Porte admitted to participate in the advantages of the public law and system (concert) of Europe. Their Majesties engage each on his part to respect the independence and the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire; guarantee in common the strict observance of that engagement; and will, in consequence, consider any act tending to its violation as a question of general interest.

Art. 8. If there should arise between the Sublime Porte and one or more of the other signing Powers any misunderstanding which might endanger the maintenance of their relations, the Sublime Porte and each of such Powers, before having recourse to the use of force, shall afford the other contracting parties the opportunity of preventing such an extremity by means of their mediation.

ADDITIONAL AND TRANSITORY ARTICLES.

The stipulations of the convention respecting the Straits, signed this day, shall not be applicable to the vessels of war employed by the belligerent Powers for the evacuation of or from the territories occupied by their armies; but the said stipulations shall resume their entire effect as soon as the evacuation shall be terminated.

Done at Paris the 30th day of the month of March, in the year 1856.

(Signed by the Fourteen Plenipotentiaries.)

CONVENTIONS ANNEXED TO THE PRECEDING TREATY.

(Signed at Paris, March 30, 1856. Ratification exchanged at Paris, April 27, 1856.)

1.—CONVENTION BETWEEN HER MAJESTY, THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA, THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH, THE KING OF PRUSSIA, THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA, AND THE KING OF SARDINIA, ON THE ONE PART, AND THE SULTAN ON THE OTHER PART, RESPECTING THE STRAITS OF THE DARDANELLES AND OF THE BOSPHORUS.

In the Name of Almighty God.

Art. 1. His Majesty the Sultan, on the one part, declares that he is

firmly resolved to maintain for the future the principle invariably established as the ancient rule of his empire, and in virtue of which it has at all times been prohibited for the ships of war of foreign Powers to enter the Straits of the Dardanelles and of the Bosphorus; and that, so long as the Porte is at peace, his Majesty will admit no foreign ship of war into the said Straits.

And their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the King of Prussia, the Emperor of all the Russias, and the King of Sardinia, on the other part, engage to respect this determination of the Sultan, and to conform themselves to the principle above declared.

Art. 2. The Sultan reserves to himself, as in past times, to deliver firearms of passage for light vessels under flag of war, which shall be employed, as is usual, in the service of the missions of foreign Powers.

Art. 3. The same exception applies to the light vessels under flag of war, which each of the contracting Powers is authorised to station at the mouths of the Danube, in order to secure the execution of the regulations relative to the liberty of that river, and the number of which is not to exceed two for each Power.

Art. 4. The present convention, annexed to the general treaty signed at Paris this day, shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in the space of four weeks, or sooner, if possible.

In witness whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto the seals of their arms.

Done at Paris the 30th day of the month of March, in the year 1856.

(Signed by the Fourteen Plenipotentiaries.)

2.—CONVENTION BETWEEN THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA AND THE SULTAN, LIMITING THEIR NAVAL FORCE IN THE BLACK SEA.

In the Name of Almighty God.

Art. 1. The high contracting parties mutually engage not to have in the Black Sea any other vessels of war than those of which the number, the force, and the dimensions are hereinafter stipulated.

Art. 2. The high contracting parties reserve to themselves each to maintain in that sea six steam-vessels of 30 metres in length at the line of flotation, of a tonnage of 800 tons at the maximum, and four light steam or sailing vessels, of a tonnage which shall not exceed 200 tons each.

Art. 3. The present convention, annexed to the general treaty signed at Paris this day, shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in the space of four weeks, or sooner, if possible.

In witness whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at Paris, the 13th day of the month of March, in the year 1856.

Signed by ORLOFF, BRUNOW, AALI, MEHMMED DJEMIL.

3.—CONVENTION BETWEEN HER MAJESTY, THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH, AND THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA, RESPECTING THE ALAND ISLANDS.

In the Name of Almighty God.

Art. 1. His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, in order to respond to the desire which has been expressed to him by their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Emperor of the French, declares that the Aland Islands shall not be fortified, and that no military or naval establishment shall be maintained or created there.

Art. 2. The present convention, annexed to the general treaty signed at Paris this day, shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in the space of four weeks, or sooner, if possible.

In witness whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at Paris, the 30th day of the month of March, in the year 1856.

Signed by CLARENDON, COWLEY, A. WALEWSKI, BOURQUENEY, ORLOFF, BRUNOW.

Declaration respecting maritime law, signed by the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, Russia, Sardinia, and Turkey, assembled in Congress at Paris, April 16, 1856:—

[Translation.]

The Plenipotentiaries who signed the Treaty of Paris, of the 30th of March, 1856, assembled in conference,—

Considering,—

That maritime law, in time of war, has long been the subject of deplorable disputes;

That the uncertainty of the law and of the duties in such a matter gives rise to differences of opinion between neutrals and belligerents which may occasion serious difficulties, and even conflicts;

That it is consequently advantageous to establish a uniform doctrine on so important a point;

That the Plenipotentiaries assembled in Congress at Paris cannot better respond to the intentions by which their Governments are animated than by seeking to introduce into international relations fixed principles in this respect;

The above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries, being duly authorised, resolved to concert among themselves as to the means of attaining this object; and, having come to an agreement, have adopted the following solemn declaration:—

1. Cruelty to life, and remains, abolished.

2. The neutral flag covers enemy's goods, with the exception of contraband of war.

3. Neutral goods, with the exception of contraband of war, are not liable to capture under enemy's flag.

4. Blockades, in order to be binding, must be effective—that is to say, maintained by a force sufficient really to prevent access to the coast of the enemy.

The Governments of the undersigned Plenipotentiaries engage to bring the present declaration to the knowledge of the States which have not taken part in the Congress of Paris, and to invite them to accede to it.

Convinced that the maxims which they now proclaim cannot but be received with gratitude by the whole world, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries doubt not that the efforts of their Governments to obtain the general adoption thereof will be crowned with full success.

The present declaration is not, and shall not be, binding, except between those Powers who have acceded, or shall accede, to it.

Done at Paris, the 16th of April, 1856.

(Signed by all the Plenipotentiaries.)

PROCLAMATION OF PEACE.

On Tuesday morning her Majesty's Proclamation of Peace was read at various stations throughout the Cities of London and Westminster, in the presence of considerable crowds of people.

Shortly after eleven o'clock, a detachment of Horse Guards drew up in front of St. James's Palace, and simultaneously the procession was in course of formation in Stable Yard. The High Bailiff of Westminster and his officers, with the bearers of the various palanquins through which the procession was to pass, were in attendance, to receive it when it emerged from the Palace.

The juvenile members of the Royal Family, with a large number of the children of the nobility, were at the windows of the Palace; and amongst others present were Lord Ernest Bruce, the Vice-Chamberlain, Lord Alfred Paget, M.P., the Hon. Mr. Ashley, Sir John Milnes Dyle, and the officers of the High Steward's and Chamberlain's departments.

At a quarter before twelve o'clock the procession came out of Stable Yard. It consisted of

A Party of Life Guards, to clear the way.

Beaules of Westminster, two and two, with Staves.

High Constable with his Staff, on Horseback.

Knights Marshal's Men, two and two.

Dum.

Drum-Major.

Trumpets.

Sergeant Trumpeter.

Pursuivants.

Heralds.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

Sir Charles Young, the Garter King of Arms, advanced at the head of the officers of arms, all of whom were habited in their talaris and on horseback. The Garter King dismounted, and there was a flourish of trumpets from the band, after which her Majesty's proclamation was read by him in a firm voice. The people shouted "God save the Queen," in accordance with an example set by the Garter King, and the great throng which drew large bodies of people into the Park, and thus relieved the procession from any inconvenience on its way to Charing Cross.

Here the proclamation was again read, the officer at arms being Whitehall, and the procession moved along the Strand to Temple Bar, the gates of which, according to usual custom, were closed. This was the most curious, if not the most interesting, part of the day's proceedings. The Junior Pursuivant of Arms, going out of rank between two trumpeters, preceded by two horse guards to clear the way, arrived before the gate, and after the trumpets had sounded thrice, he knocked three times. Notwithstanding the cheers of the crowd, the trumpeting of the horses, and the general confusion that prevailed, there was heard, in succession from the sonorous voice of the City Marshal, who was stationed within the bar, the important question—"Who comes there?" The Pursuivant, expecting that such a question might be put to him (especially as it was part of the proceedings which had been put privately in print for the information of those who had to conduct the business) was nothing daunted by the solemnity of the question, and therefore replied without hesitation—"The officers of arms, who demand entrance in the City, to publish her Majesty's proclamation of peace." The gates were then opened—and, as there should be any great conspiracy against the City liberties, the Pursuivant was alone admitted. Immediately afterwards the gates were shut. The City officers conducted him to the Lord Mayor, who received from his hands the proclamation. Having carefully perused it, his Lordship issued it back to the Pursuivant, and ordered the gates to be opened. As the Pursuivant was leaving him, his Lordship said, "Sir, the gates are open!" The procession then entered the City, and was received by the Lord Mayor and the City authorities, all of whom were in their carriages. At this point the officials connected with the City of Westminster filed off and retired.

At the corner of Chancery Lane there was a flourish of trumpets, and the proclamation was read in the presence of the Lord Mayor. The proclamation was again read at the end of Wood Street, where the Cross formerly stood, in Chancery; and, lastly, at the Royal Exchange, where a vast number of persons had congregated. It was universally cheered.

[We shall next week publish some interesting illustrations connected with the foregoing ceremony.]

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. XVI. THE ADMIRALTY "BROUGHT TO BOOK."

On the evening following the day of the "Grand Naval Review," the House was crowded at an early hour. At five o'clock there could not have been less than 400 members present. The cause of this unusual gathering was the confident expectation that the Admiralty would be "brought to book" for the second time, in consequence of the proceedings of the day. Most of these 400 members had themselves been the sufferers. They had been away from their homes from six o'clock in the morning until long after midnight, and they had in that interval endured all manner of discomfort. In the first place, they had been told that they would get to Southampton at half-past nine—into their boats directly—on the review ground at eleven, and take a prominent part with their Sovereign in the august ceremony. But, instead of all this, they reached Southampton at eleven, Spilhead at two; and when they got there the ceremony was half over; and instead of forming part of the procession through the fleet, they were compelled to be mere spectators—consider—of no account whatever in the day's proceedings; and moreover they waited six hours for their breakfast, and when they got it, the fowls were tough, the coffee thin, and the wine sour. They probably then ate too much and too fast; and what with the day, the tough fowls, the sour wine, the fast eating, &c. &c., they had been plagued with indigestion ever since; and moreover, and to crown all, they had heard, that whilst they were compelled to eat tough poultry and drink bad sherry—they, the Senators of England—mere clerks of the Admiralty were regaling themselves with champagne and "all the delicacies of the season." What wonder, then, that, suffering from indigestion, fatigue, and wounded pride, our senators should rush together to pour out the vials of their wrath upon the supposed authors of all their misery, and this they did, and it was expected that there would be such a "row" in the House, such an explosion of indignation, as had never been seen since Charles the First demanded the refractory member, or Oliver Cromwell forcibly dissolved the Long Parliament. Indeed, some said the Ministry must go. It had sacrificed Williams and Kars, and the House had been patient—it had blundered horribly in the conduct of the war, and thereby brought discredit upon the country and had been forgiven; but to send Noble Lords out in a crummy ship, and to feed the Commons of England on tough poultry and sour wine, was not to be borne—"the Government must go," and as to "Wood, Berkeley, and Bernal Osborne, they ought to be hanged at the yard-arm of one of their ships." But once again the gods were propitious to the Government. On that dreadful day—"dies inter dies illas"—Sir Charles Wood was not in his place—he was still down at Portsmouth settling matters to rights after the *Jeze*, like a good housewife putting up her china and plates after the hail; Berkeley was dillig; and Bernal Osborne helping them. So that though there was a good deal of angry explosion, it was felt that the grand attack must be postponed till the delinquents themselves should be present; and the sufferers went away disappointed, but still determined—

"Gathering their brows like gathering storm,

Nursing their wrath to keep it warm."

On Friday, the number present at five o'clock was not quite so large. Sir Charles Wood and Mr. Bernal Osborne were, however, in their places. But, somehow or other, matters had evidently assumed a very different aspect. In the first place, the sufferers had all had a good night's rest, and it is wonderful what "Nature's sweet restorer" can do for the temper as well as the physical strength. And then (and this is a great point) the tough meat and sour wine no longer oppressed their stomachs; and, last of all, calm reflection had dethroned in her accustomed way the turbulent usurper, passion; so that when Sir Charles Wood got up and expressed his "profound sorrow" for what had occurred, instead of being hoisted, he was actually cheered; and after his defence, though the conversation was continued for some time, and some few members, more cynical than others, "refused to be comforted," yet the whole thing ended in smoke, and at seven o'clock the House quietly passed to "the orders of the day."

REVOLUTION AHEAD.

Which is it? An overthrow of the Government? A dissolution of Parliament? Or a new Reform Bill? No! nothing so vulgar. We have said that, on Thursday night, after the discussion on tough fowls, sour wine, and crummy ships was over, the majority of the members went away. Well, after they were gone, a young man, short in stature, dressed in a shooting-trunk, and altogether of most unaristocratic appearance, arose, and proceeding very modestly, but with no mean ability, to propose a resolution to the following effect:—"That her Majesty be thanked for the Report of the Civil Service Examination Commissioners; and request to be made to the Civil Service, by way of experiment, of open competition for employment in the Civil Service." The gentleman who made this proposition was Viscount Goderich, Radical Member for Huddersfield, and heir to the Earldom of Ripon, and presumptive heir to that of De Grey—heir to two Earldoms, and a Radicals! It is right, however, to state, that the Noble Lord is not a demagogue; and though he professes to be in favour of the usual Radical formula, we strongly doubt whether he has much faith in it, as likely to lead, if carried out, to an improved government, or an amelioration of the condition of the lower classes. To use the words of Thomas Carlyle, the Noble Lord's friend, "To find a parliament more and more the express image of the people, could, unless the people changed to be wise, give him no satisfaction." However, whatever may be the Noble Lord's views, it was he that proposed this memorable resolution; and, what is better, carried it in the very teeth of the Government.

MR. HAYTER'S WHIP IN DANGER.

It is probable that our readers cannot see all the ultimate consequences of the position to her Majesty, if it should be complicated with, as eventually happened, the Government saw them; and hence the strenuous action on which the "Whips" made to defeat the motion; and the dismay upon their countenances when the motion was carried, and the Government was defeated. And well they might be dismayed; for if it comes to that—if none are to hold office but those who can honestly win in fair and open field, Mr. Hayter's occupation will be gone, and his formidable whip may be hung up in the Tower, for the admiration of future generations, amongst those curious instruments with which our rulers in former days used to persuade the people.

"SAVE US FROM OUR FRIENDS."

The great majority of those who supported the motion sit on the Government side of the House. So that Government was beaten by its own friends.

"Deserted in its hour of need,
By those its former bounty fed."

The minority was made up by Government officials, a few Liberals, and still fewer Tories. The bulk of the Conservatives were not there. Nor did any of the leaders of the Conservative party vote—none of those who would probably take office if a Derbyshire Ministry were to be formed. Disraeli was somewhere in the House, but he must have slunk into the Opposition private room, for he did not vote. All these are curious facts which on reflection lead to more curious conclusions.

THE WHIPS IN DESPAIR.

It was amusing, we were told by an M.P., to see the anxiety of the whips in the lobby. Every Liberal Member that came out during the discussion was stopped and questioned and even reasoned with. "Here, B., you're not going away?" "No, but I cannot vote for you to-night!" "Why not?" "Why, I will do anything to get rid of the patronage from this House. It degrades the Government, degrades the Members, and degrades the Constituents." Such, we are assured, was the tenor of more than one earnest conversation in the lobby. It was in vain that Members were taken by the arm, whispered to, and all the well-known arts of the "Whips," which have generally been so potent, put into requisition. The fact was, the time was come for those who "would be free themselves to break the blow." And in spite of these tyrants they struck it. "But, why do you call this a revolution, or likely to lead to one?" We reply, that if the request to her Majesty be complied with, it must absolutely and inevitably follow that ALL GOVERNMENT PATRONAGE WILL BE ABOLISHED. And if our readers do not see the revolutionary consequences of such a step, we can only say, that they are profoundly ignorant of the working of the Constitution under which they live.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE NAVAL REVIEW.

Earl GRANVILLE gave explanations touching the arrangements made by the Admiralty for the accommodation of their Lordships on the day of the naval review. He attributed the delay to the steam getting low in consequence of the fleet being let down, and they had ordered an immediate and searching inquiry, with the view of ascertaining who was the guilty party on the occasion.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

The Earl of ST. GERMAN, in moving the second reading of his bill, legalising, under certain limitations, marriage with a deceased wife's sister, supported his views by numerous arguments, drawn from Jewish and Christian laws and precedents.

The Bishop of OXFORD opposed the bill, and moved, as an amendment, that the second reading take place that day six months.

After a protracted discussion, a division took place—For the motion, 24; against, 43; majority against, 19. The bill is consequently lost.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE SEBASTOPOL CLASP AND THE TRENCHES.

Mr. PEEL, in answer to Mr. Owen Stanley, stated that it was not intended to give any distinguishing mark of honour to the officers and men who had been engaged in the arduous duty of the trenches. The Sebastopol clasp was understood to include that meritorious service.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE PEACE.

Mr. BYNG urged the Government to precede the public rejoicings for the peace with a thanksgiving to the Almighty.

Sir GEORGE GREY mentioned that, as soon as the Treaty of Peace was ratified, a form of public prayer would be prepared.

Lord LOVINE revived the question of a day of thanksgiving, with the view of ensuring the Government for making preparations for celebrating the peace while the treaty had not been ratified. He moved a resolution to that effect, but withdrew it till Monday.

DESPATCH OF TROOPS TO CANADA.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. Laing, as to the sending of troops to Canada, mentioned that the object was merely to replace the force (about 4,000 men) which had been removed to the scene of war; not, however, in Canada alone, but in other parts of our North American colonies. The idea of this movement being a menace to the United States was childish and idle. There was no truth in the rumour that an English force was to be landed at Costa Rica.

SIR CHARLES WOOD'S EXPLANATIONS.

Members becoming impatient to hear Sir Charles Wood's explanation as to the mishaps of Wednesday, a general cry of "Wood, Wood," was raised, to which Sir Charles responded.

Sir CHARLES WOOD assured the House that to one could feel more vexed and grieved than himself at the delay and inconvenience to which the members of both Houses had been subjected. Time and tide, and delay in the conveyance from London, had been the main causes of the mishaps which had occurred. The Right Hon. Baronet proceeded to state in detail the arrangements which had been made, his statements proving fertile in eliciting ironical cheers from the Opposition side of the House. The main cause of derangement seemed to be the late arrival of the train which contained the members of both Houses; instead of arriving at ten o'clock, it did not arrive till twelve o'clock. With regard to the steamer Transit, appointed to convey the Peers, by some unpardonable negligence her fires had been allowed to go out, or to become so low as not to generate steam.

As a whole, Sir Charles Wood's explanation appeared to satisfy the House that he and his colleagues had taken every pains to secure regularity and comfort.

Several severe remarks were made by Mr. Newdegate, Sir William Jolliffe, and Mr. Nisbet Hamilton, as to the defective means of railway communication between the metropolis and the largest arena in the kingdom. In their opinion a clear case had been made out for Government interference.

Mr. CHARLES (the chairman of the London and South-Western Railway Company) expressed, in his turn, the regret of himself and colleagues at the disappointment which occurred on Wednesday. The delay occurred from the breaking down of the engine of the train which preceded the one which conveyed the Members of both Houses.

Mr. HUTCHINS (a director) gave additional explanations. The House then went into committee on the Police (Counties and Boroughs) Bill, and continued till a late hour.

MONDAY, APRIL 28.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE MARRIAGE LAW.

Lord BROUGHAM brought in a bill to assimilate the marriage law of Scotland with that of England. The bill was read a first time.

THE TREATY OF PEACE.

The Earl of CLARENDON laid on the table the Treaty of Peace, and mentioned that the subject would be taken into consideration on Monday next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PEACE.

Lord PALMERSTON laid on the table the Treaty of Peace, and moved that it be taken into consideration on Monday next.

DAY OF THANKSGIVING.

Lord PALMERSTON stated that the Queen had appointed Sunday next as the day of Thanksgiving, and that, in the case of the Whitsunday holidays, the recess would be from Friday, the 9th, till Friday, the 16th May.

THE FALL OF KARS.

Mr. WHITESIDE rose, in a full House, to make his motion on the fall of Kars—"That while this House feels it to be its duty to express its admiration of the gallantry of the Turkish soldiery, and of the devotion of the British officers at the siege of Kars, it feels it to be equally a duty to express its conviction that the capitulation of that fortress, and the surrender of the army which defended it, thereby endangering the safety of the Asiatic provinces of Turkey,

were in a great measure owing to the want of foresight and energy on the part of her Majesty's Administration." Mr. WHITESIDE introduced his subject by referring to the state of affairs in Persia and Asia Minor at the time the war broke out between Turkey and Russia. When hostilities commenced between these two Powers, it was the duty of an English Minister to look at the state of things likely to arise in Asia Minor, a matter to which England had the largest interest. It was only after Turkey had declared war on Russia, and Kars was placed in imminent danger, that the English Government began to bestir itself in the way of relieving the fortress of our ally. And how did Ministers proceed? Why, by sending a commissioner to inquire a report? Colonel Williams was the commissioner; and it must be allowed that he "inquired" the English difficulties with despatches. Mr. WHITESIDE described the blue book which contained the correspondence as the most extraordinary that ever saw the light, its object seemed to be to perplex. Avoiding himself of this correspondence, he proceeded to object to the course taken by Lord Stratford in reference to Commissary Williams. (Mr. WHITESIDE) must profess himself utterly at a loss to understand Lord Stratford's motives, or to justify his conduct. He defied anybody to discover in the blue book the record of any assistance rendered by England to Turkey, beyond four men and a doctor; but these were men of whom England might well be proud. Commissary Williams wrote fifty-four letters to Lord Stratford, to none of which did he receive any reply. Lord Stratford's "leave" was very properly set aside by Lord Clarendon as insufficient, and he (Mr. WHITESIDE) was prepared to admit that at this time the Foreign Secretary had detected Lord Stratford's real character, and that he had expressed himself creditably as a private gentleman, but not as an English statesman. Lord Raglan had received copies of Commissary Williams's letters, but the answers of that Gallant Officer had been suppressed, no doubt for reasons well known to the Government. In his letters the Commissioner warned all concerned that, if assistance was not speedily rendered, Russian power would become paramount in Asia. No assistance was rendered. The Commissioner struggled with herculean difficulties—neglect and delay—not even a step in military rank was sent to him so as to add weight to his representations, till it was too late. And what, asked Mr. WHITESIDE, is to be thought of the Government that continued such a man in office? Speaking of the amendment to be proposed to his motion by Mr. John Phillimore, the Learned Gentleman maintained that a select committee was not the means by which an ambassador could be reached. But the conduct of Lord Stratford was not the only element embroiled in the motion. He must impinge the Aberdeen Government, the present Government, and all who exercised influence over the conduct of the war. As to Lord Palmerston, his opinion was, that, from first to last, it was the determination of the Noble Lord not to assist the prosecution of the war in Asia; and, faithful to that determination, the English Minister of War set himself in opposition to the opinion of Commissary Williams, Omar Pacha, General Gough, and all military authorities, French and English, as to the means by which effectual relief could reach the beleaguered fortress. In August Lord Clarendon bestirred himself, and made a proposition to the French Government to send an expedition to Asia Minor, but it fell through, owing to unaccountable mismanagement. From this time justice required him to say that Lord Stratford acted in a most exemplary manner. Before the differences which sprung up as to the Asiatic expedition were reconciled, the time for action had gone by, and the "key" to Asia Minor fell into the hands of the enemy. But, although unavoidable circumstances had prevented the despatch of a sufficient relieving force, Kars might have been saved by a remittance of from £50,000 to £100,000 in specie, for the purchase of provisions. (Mr. WHITESIDE sat down amidst rounds of cheers. His speech occupied four hours and a half.)

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL replied. He would take his stand upon the simple facts of the case, and upon these facts he would ask the House for a complete acquittal from the charges contained in the motion. When General (then Colonel) Williams joined the Turkish army, it was scarcely worth the name of an army. The soldiers knew little or nothing of their drill, and the officers were indulging in every species of extravagance and peculation. General Williams attempted a remedy, but was met with difficulties on every side. The English Government could not give him authority to act in reference to the Turkish officers, or even to give him high rank in the Turkish service. He (the Attorney-General) did not intend to defend Lord Stratford's conduct in neglecting to answer General Williams's letters; but was the House prepared to say that the Government ought to have recalled that able and accomplished diplomatist? Lord Stratford was no partisan of the present Government. He was the political ally of the gentlemen opposite, and it was Lord Derby who raised him to the peerage. The Attorney-General proceeded to narrate the proceedings of Colonel Williams, and to show that he did receive efficient assistance from Lord Clarendon. With the view of covering their peculations, the Turkish officers had represented the army to be greatly more numerous than it was, and when General Williams came to ascertain the truth, he became anxious for reinforcements. But where could reinforcements be found? Every man was needed before Sebastopol; and as to the Turkish Contingent, it did not reach that point of discipline which would have justified its employment upon so desperate an enterprise. The English Government were willing that Omar Pacha should take a portion of the Turkish force from the Crimea, but this did not meet the approval of the allied generals. What could the English Government do? Could they fly in the face of their Allies? The moment the French generals declared that not a man could be spared from before Sebastopol, the English Government was powerless. It had been said that supplies should have been sent to Asia Minor. Munitions of war were sent from Constantinople. It had been said, why not send money? In what shape—as a gift or as a loan? Had a gift been proposed, would not a cry have been raised against subsidising Turkey? Had a loan been asked, what would have been its fate? Power, last session, to guarantee a loan to Turkey was asked for, and how did gentlemen opposite receive that proposal? Why, it was opposed by the Learned Gentleman who had raised so loud a complaint, and the measure was only carried by a very small majority. The formation of the Turkish Contingent was opposed by the same section of politicians. Well, Sebastopol fell, and so did Kars, but has Turkey fallen? The real question was this, was there anything which could have averted the fall of Kars of which the Government failed to avail themselves? He maintained that there was not. The war had been carried to a successful termination. Every object for which it was entered upon had been attained, and while the resources of the enemy had been exhausted, the resources of England were unimpaired.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL maintained that the fall of Kars amounted to this, that the star of England had paled before the star of Russia in Asia. Kars had fallen from the same cause which had led to the destruction of a fine army before Sebastopol. With regard to the loan, not a shilling of it had reached the Porte at the time required to have reached Kars; and as to the Turkish Contingent, its absorption into the English army proved an injury rather than a benefit to Turkey. All that the English Government did was to write insulting and unjust despatches to the Porte; and that, while they did nothing themselves, they prevented others from putting forth a helping hand.

The LORD-ADVOCATE characterised the assertions in the debate as simply untrue, and proceeded to show that such was the case.

At midnight, on the motion of Mr. John Phillimore, the debate was adjourned till Tuesday.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

NEW PEER.

Lord Aveland (Sir G. Heathcote) took the oath and his seat among the Peers.

PROCLAMATION OF PEACE.

The Bishop of EXETER, alluding to the Thanksgiving Day appointed for the conclusion of peace, called attention to the necessity of making large provision for the performance of Divine service, especially in the metropolitan districts.

THE FALL OF KARS.

The Earl of MALMESBURY withdrew the notice he had given for Friday next respecting Kars. He gave up his intention to bring forward that subject with much regret, but acknowledged that it was inexpedient to forestall the discussion, which was arranged for the following Monday, upon the general topic of the new peace.

The remaining business on the paper was then disposed of, and their Lordships adjourned until Friday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MILITARY BANDS IN THE PARKS.

Sir B. HALL, replying to Colonel North and the Marquis of Blandford, entered into some explanations respecting the musical performances which were now taking place every Sunday in the public Parks. The result of the experiment tried last year in Kensington Gardens had, he said, proved so satisfactory, having been attended by from 30,000 to 75,000 auditors, whose behaviour was altogether unexceptionable, that he had therefore not only renewed the performance this year in Kensington Gardens, but had given orders that bands should play also every Sunday in Regent's and Victoria Parks. He intended, moreover, to pay the performers for this service, and also to augment the provision made for the supply of refreshments to the public who attended on the occasion, if such accommodation were found requisite.

THE FALL OF KARS—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE resumed the debate on the fall of Kars. He contended that Mr. WHITESIDE had kept all the more important points out of sight, in order to substantiate his charge against the Government. Vindicating the Prime Minister and Lord Clarendon, he transferred the whole blame for the catastrophe to the apathy of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe and the imbecility of Selim Pacha. Mr. SEYMOUR proposed to bring the discussion to a drawn battle, by suggesting an amendment, in which all the impecunious expressions against the Government were omitted, and a clause substituted stating forth the expediency of propounding any opinion respecting the fall of Kars, until the terms of the Treaty of Peace had been taken into consideration. The promulgation of the treaty had, he observed, opened a much wider question, pending the discussion of which the promulgation of a debate, involving only a single point, was premature and useless.

This amendment having been seconded, it was put for in the Chair. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that the fall of Kars had in no way affected the terms of the Treaty of Peace, or the plan for the prosecution of Europe was drawn up and accepted before that event, and the Treaty, as it now stood, instead of falling short of those terms, actually went beyond them. He denied that the slightest trace could be perceived of any concession made to Russia as a consequence of the fall of Kars. He entered into a statement with respect to the Turkish loan to show that the delay in raising it to Turkey was attributable to the Turkish officials, who were not prepared to exhibit any means by which the application of the funds could be secured to the purposes for which the loan was decreed. He could not support the amendment in which Mr. Ker Seymour, though he quite appreciated the spirit of consolation in which it was made, but the Government were anxious that the whole case should be cleared, and they counted on investigation, demanding the decision of the House, which he felt certain would be an antidote on the charges against them.

Sir J. PAKINGTON contended that the able and eloquent speech of Mr. WHITESIDE remained still wholly unanswered. He entirely dissented from the Chancellor of the Exchequer's assertion that the Government were not responsible for the fall of Kars. He thought they were responsible, and he also thought they were culpable in not furnishing General Williams with money to enable him to render the defence of that fortress effectual. He could only account for their resting their defence upon the non-responsibility for the war in Asia, by supposing that they saw no other way of escaping the censure of the country.

Mr. LAYARD said he had repeatedly pointed out the necessity of looking to the defence of the Asiatic territories of Turkey, as long as three years ago, and had since then more than once appeared to the Opposition to support him in urging the Government to act in that direction. He had always been, and still was of opinion that Kars ought not to have been defended, for it was not on the regular road to any place, and its strength was entirely artificial. There was, however, a range of mountains further back, where a small force could have defended a large army, and there it was that a position should have been taken up and effectually defended. He blamed the Government for not having placed money or an unlimited credit at the disposal of General Williams; for if he had had either, Kars would not have fallen. He thought from the papers, that the Earl of Clarendon had done all in his power to assist General Williams; and, so believing, he must give his vote against the motion.

Mr. MAURICE thought Mr. Layard had struck a fatal blow at his own character, that night in attempting to defend Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, to whom he (Mr. Maurice) believed the whole blame of the fall of Kars was to be attributed.

Sir W. HEATHCOTE recommended the House to agree to the amendment of Mr. Ker Seymour, which was equivalent to the previous question. He regretted that the bill of indemnity had been brought forward at the present time, and still more regretted that the Government would not allow it to be withdrawn; but if they must go to a division, he must vote for the motion of Mr. WHITESIDE.

Mr. SERJEANT SNYER said that Lord Palmerston had prosecuted the war with an energy not to be surpassed, and had won for the country a glorious peace; but he would be a traitor to his own fame if he listened to the amendment.

Sir E. B. LYTON moved the adjournment of the debate. Lord PALMERSTON opposed the adjournment, thinking that the question was ripe for a division. He could understand that the party who had shrunk from a division in the other House, should also endeavour to shrink from it in this; but he hoped the House would not tolerate any adjournment. He was resolved, if he sat there until the morning, to have a division on the question.

Mr. DISRAELI said the amendment passed on the paper (but not proposed) by Mr. Phillimore, and that proposed by Mr. Ker Seymour, were the cause of the proposed adjournment. He thought the tone of the Noble Lord was not justified; and if he was resolved to sit up until morning, he could only say that he (Mr. Disraeli) was also prepared to sit up until morning until he secured a fair hearing for Sir E. B. Lyton.

The House then divided, and the motion for the adjournment of the debate was negatived by a majority of 243 to 173.

Mr. MALINS moved that the House do now adjourn.

Lord PALMERSTON said he should not object to the adjournment of the debate until Thursday, as there appeared to be a resolve not to continue it that night.

Mr. MALINS then withdrew his motion, and the debate was adjourned until Thursday.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW WRIT.

A new writ was ordered to be issued for the election of a member for the county of Longford, in the room of Mr. R. M. Fox, deceased.

DWELLINGS FOR LABOURING CLASSES (IRELAND) BILL.

Sir W. SOMERVELL, who had the charge of this bill, submitted that the measure was a long and unexceptionable, and designed merely to secure for the Irish labourers some better description of habitations than the wigwags in which they too generally lived at present.

In committee on the bill, some hours were spent in discussing two clauses of the measure, on which several amendments were proposed. A motion that the Chairman should report progress was afterwards made, and carried to a division; and, though negatived by a majority of 159 to 24, the debate was suspended, it being nearly six o'clock.—The House soon after adjourned.

THURSDAY, MAY 1.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

This being Ascension Day, the House of Lords did not meet.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE FIREWORKS IN CELEBRATION OF THE PEACE.

Lord PALMERSTON stated that the official rejoicings for the peace would be celebrated upon the Queen's birthday; and that he saw no necessity for preparing a new map of the Russian frontier, the retrenchments of territory being owing to that power being very slight, and clearly indicated in the terms of the new treaty.

FALL OF KARS—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

Sir E. B. LYTON, who resumed the adjourned debate on the fall of Kars, recognised the literary merit and diplomatic activity exhibited in the despatches from the British Foreign Secretary and his colleagues. But the besieged fortress required practical interposition for its relief, and this he contended the Government utterly neglected to afford, while at the same time they concealed from the English Legislature and public the urgency of the case. The result had been that Kars was taken through the improvidence of the Administration, and its capture would remain an ineffaceable blot upon their reputation.

Mr. V. SMITH remarked, that, although the chief censure implied by the resolution before the House fell upon Lord Clarendon and Pannure, the subject had been withdrawn from discussion in the assembly where those Noble Peers would be able personally to defend themselves. In both Houses, he observed there had appeared a general tendency among members of the Opposition to evade a direct issue upon the question.

Sir J. GRAHAM described the measures taken by Lord Aberdeen's Government for the prosecution of the war in Asia, and vindicated the policy on which they had been based. Serious intentions had existed as he showed from the published despatches, to carry military force into Armenia so long since as October, 1854, which were only frustrated by the unexpected duration of the siege of Sebastopol.

Mr. DISRAELI said the question divided itself into two branches, namely, the conduct of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, and the neglect of the Government in failing to relieve Kars. The former issue he thought of trifling importance, contending that whatever had been the faults of the Ambassador, the Ministry was omitted to recall him had assumed the entire responsibility for his acts. As to the Ministry, they simply did nothing, while General Williams was struggling heroically against the besiegers of Kars. He finally examined the tenor of the resolution proposed by Mr. WHITESIDE, and urged that the allegations it contained against the Ministry were clearly proved.

Lord J. RUSSELL invited the House to consider the question of Kars in its true aspect—as part of a great and multifarious war. The Allies had undertaken to defend Turkey from Russian aggression; this they had accomplished, and had secured the integrity of that country by a satisfactory and honourable peace. After expressing his warm admiration of the heroism displayed by General Williams and his companions, the Noble Lord congratulated the Ministry and the country that the war had been conducted with success, and closed with honour.

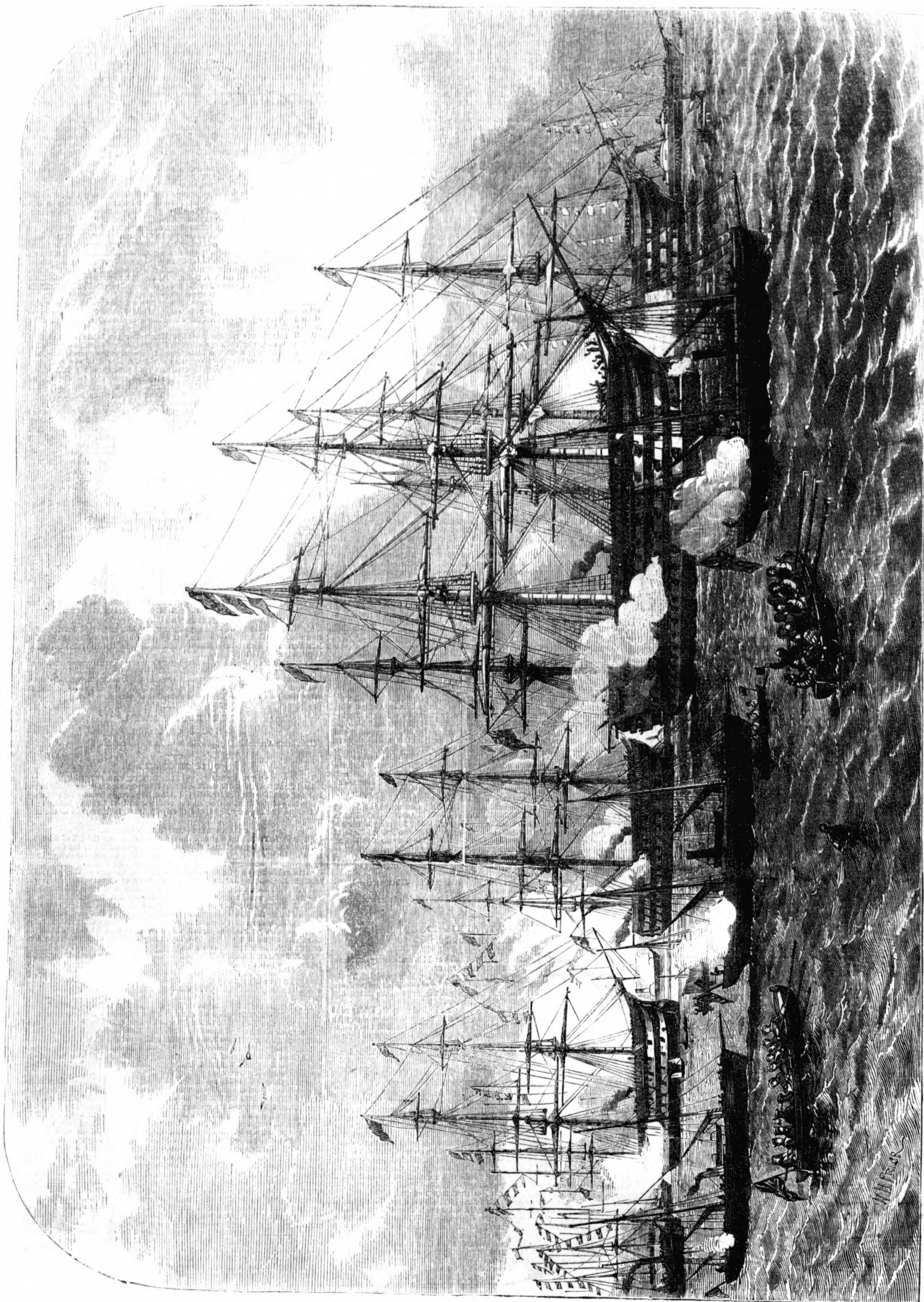
Lord PALMERSTON, commenting upon Mr. WHITESIDE's speech, with which the debate had been opened, denied the assumption that England engaged in the war chiefly to defend India. The attacks on Lord Stratford he considered unjustifiable, vindicating that minister from any charge except on account of a temporary neglect in answering despatches, and censuring his diplomatic services and personal abilities. For the Ministry in general, he urged that they had never undertaken to conduct the war in Asia. No such plan entered into their policy, no promises to that effect were made to Turkey; and it would indeed have constituted a fatal mistake if the forces intended to besiege Sebastopol had been tritured away upon secondary exploits. The fall of Kars was to be regretted principally because of the disappointment it inflicted upon the gallant defenders. In itself the fortress was not of first-rate importance, and success obtained elsewhere against the Russians assured its immediate restoration.

Mr. WHITESIDE having replied, a division was taken on Mr. Seymour's amendment, which was negatived by a majority of 451 to 52—399.

The House then divided again on the main question, on which there appeared

—For Mr. WHITESIDE's resolution, 176; against, 303, majority for Government, 127.

The business on the paper having been disposed of, the House adjourned at half-past one.



THE GRAND NAVAL REVIEW—THE PARTING SALUTE OF THE FLEET.—(FROM A SKETCH BY R. G. VERNER.)



SIR CHARLES WOOD.

LORD PALMERSTON.

SIR GEORGE GREY.

LORD PALMERSTON LAYING A COPY OF THE TREATY OF PEACE ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LORD PALMERSTON.

The illustration given on the previous page depicts an incident which may well be styled historical. It represents the Premier in the act of laying the Treaty of Peace on the table of the House of Commons; and we avail ourselves of so opportune an occasion, to sketch briefly, for the information of our readers, the career of the aged, the experienced, and the far-famed politician, who, as the somewhat inadequate instrument of a great people, conducted the war, which most of us have believed to be at once just and necessary, to what we all trust will prove a safe, an honourable, and a lasting peace.

Henry John Temple, Viscount Palmerston, among his colleagues the first in experience as in honours, in renown as in blood, was born on the 20th of October, 1784, the representative of a family deriving descent, so say our peerage-mongers, from the grand old Saxon Earls of Mercia, and, by-the-bye, from that celebrated Lady Godiva, whose extraordinary equestrian exploit is still annually commemorated with becoming gratitude by the inhabitants of Coventry. Educated at Harrow, at Edinburgh, and at Cambridge; and arriving at years of discretion about the time when the shattered frame of William Pitt was consigned to the Abbey of Westminster, the young Irish peer, in 1806, contested the representation of the University of Cambridge with Lord Henry Petty, now Marquis of Lansdowne; and having been quite unsuccessful, was fain to find his way to the Tory benches of the House of Commons, as Member for the "pocket borough" of Bletchingley. He was soon after elected for Newport, in the Isle of Wight, and on the formation of the Duke of Portland's ministry, in 1807, appointed a Lord of the Admiralty. Two years after entering upon official life, he was, on the resignation of Lord Castlereagh, promoted to the post of Secretary-at-War; and he continued to fill that office during the long period when the destinies of the empire were presided over successively by Mr. Perceval, the Earl of Liverpool, Mr. Canning, Lord Goderich, and the Duke of Wellington. During that long period, comprising more than two decades of years, Lord Palmerston seems to have been the most docile of subordinates and the most unobtrusive of secretaries. Indeed, he exercised with great success what Mr. Carlyle describes as the "talent of silence," save when discussing matters relating to his own department. No one, of course, could then have prognosticated that the very humble, and rather servile official, who appeared to have no opinion of his own, whose voice was never heard except when the annual estimates were under discussion, was, as time passed on, to figure as a very important parliamentary personage, any more than that a writer in the "New Whig Guide," and the pupil of Canning, was to become the subordinate of Grey and the colleague of John Russell. It was, however, ordered that it should be so!

About the time when the Wellington Cabinet was constructed, Lord Palmerston gave indications of having some notion that a change was at hand. The elevation to the Premiership of a man of genius, in the person of Mr. Canning, long kept down as a political adventurer, had shaken parties to their centre; and his sudden death left them in a state of disorganisation. The uncompromising hostility shown by Peel and Wellington to all reform, made men of spirit cast their eyes to the Opposition ranks, presided over by Earl Grey; and the present Premier, seeing how the wind blew, had little scruple in turning his coat. The event proved that he was wise in his generation, for when Earl Grey, in 1830, formed a government on the principles of "peace, retrenchment, and reform," Lord Palmerston was installed as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a position, from the peculiar state of Europe at the time, requiring the exercise of much knowledge, firmness, and address.

Having retired for a while during Sir R. Peel's first and deplorable attempt at administration, Lord Palmerston, on the accession of the Melbourne Ministry, returned to his former post, which events rendered the reverse of a sinecure. The junction of the old Tory party, under Sir R. Peel, with those Canningites and constitutional Whigs who followed Lord Stanley, brought into existence a Parliamentary Opposition, powerful in numbers, influential in following, and formidable, above all, for the ability and genius of its leaders. Vain, though aided by the great O'Connell, was the struggle of the Ministry. The persuasive address of Peel, the vehement eloquence of Stanley, and the conversational oratory of Graham, then in his best days, carried everything before them; and the result of the general election of 1841, was the expulsion of Lord Melbourne from power. The great Peel administration was then formed; and Lord Palmerston, who, by this time, had strengthened his position by marrying Lord Melbourne's sister, the widow of Earl Cowper, went into opposition with his friends. The hopes of the Whig party could not have been very sanguine, for separated from the English Radicals and the Irish Brigade, and the men of Manchester, they formed a mere section in Parliament. On the other hand, the Conservative ministry was one of the most powerful ever seen, and its chief indulged in the anticipation of many years of power. Mr. Disraeli remarks, that the Whigs were then sustained solely by the dignity of Lord John Russell.

At length, the conversion of Sir R. Peel to the fiscal doctrines enforced by the "unadorned eloquence" of Mr. Cobden, falsified all anticipations, and, in November, 1845, the Whigs were called upon to form a government; but the hostility of Earl Grey, who refused to sit in the same cabinet with Lord Palmerston, frustrated their schemes; and it was not till the summer of 1846, that the descendant of Lady Godiva, whom the press designated as "Cupid," and "the juvenile Whig," again grasped the seals of the Foreign Office.

Lord Palmerston, soon after this, became the object of vehement attack from various quarters. His intervention in the affairs of Portugal, was the first step that raised a clamour; and when a new Parliament met, Mr. Chisholm Anstey signalled his brief Parliamentary career, or, at all events, acquired notoriety, by a long and elaborate impeachment of the whole foreign policy. Mr. Anstey only got laughed at for his pains; but more formidable adversaries were waiting an opportunity; and his interference in the affairs of Greece, brought down upon him a host of foes, conspicuous among whom were Lord Aberdeen, Mr. Gladstone, Sir J. Graham, and Mr. S. Herbert. Lord Palmerston met their attack with great energy, made his best speech on the occasion, and was so successful, that a banquet was given at the Reform Club to celebrate his triumph. It appears, however, that his personal popularity was the reverse of grateful to his colleagues; and, towards the close of 1851, for acknowledging the present ruler of the French, they dismissed him from office. Lord Palmerston's revenge was speedy. He turned out Lord John Russell in February, 1852, and thus enabled Lord Derby to carry his political associates into Downing Street.

During the existence of the Derby-Disraeli Administration, Lord Palmerston appeared so entirely cut off from the Liberal party, that he was pretty well abused by the press; but when a change occurred, he, after a little parleying, came to terms with the Coalition, and appeared in office as Home Secretary. The retreat of Lord John Russell from the leadership of the House of Commons to the back benches, placed Lord Palmerston in front of the battle; and no sooner did the Earl of Aberdeen fall, than all eyes were turned towards him as the man for the crisis. He formed his Administration amidst alarming difficulties and dangers; and that Administration, whatever may be the future fortunes of its members, has fulfilled its mission of conducting a war with vigour and concluding a peace with dignity.

Having thus sketched, with brevity, the political career of Lord Palmerston, we refer the reader to our 42nd number, for a description of his appearance, his dress, his manner, and his style of speaking.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF has published a decree, maintaining the prohibition against the export from Poland of rye, barley, oats, wheat flour, and cattle.

A TERRIFIC HURRICANE was experienced at Philadelphia on the 12th ult., causing great injury to property, but no lives were lost.

COUNT MORSKY'S suite at Moscow will be exceedingly numerous, the sum of a million having, it is said, been placed at his disposal to defray the expenses.

MR. DONALDSON, formerly Greek tutor in the University of Edinburgh, and now tutor of Stirling Grammar School, is preparing an essay on Scottish and Hebridean Minstrelsy for the third volume of Rogers's "Scottish Minstrel," now in the press. Mr. Donaldson is well known as the author of several works on Greek literature; and has the local reputation of being one of the most accomplished scholars of the day.

SPLENDID PRESENTATION ENGRAVING TO THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

The PROPRIETORS OF THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES beg to announce to their Subscribers that it is their intention to issue with the number for May 24th, 1856, her Majesty's Birthday, instead of on May 3rd, as previously announced, a beautifully engraved

LIFE SIZE

PORTRAIT OF

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

Enclosed in a magnificent Ornamental Border of appropriate design.

This Engraving, which has been several months in preparation, has been executed from a drawing made especially for the purpose, and may claim to rank with the most successful portraits of her Majesty heretofore published.

No expense has been spared to render this work of art worthy of its illustrious subject, and it is believed that this, in conjunction with the unusual scale on which it has been produced, will fairly entitle it to be considered unique.

The size of the paper on which the engraving will be printed is 25 inches by 33. None but the finest impressions will be permitted to leave the office, and only regular purchasers of the paper will be supplied with them.

The price of the number of the "ILLUSTRATED TIMES," together with this elaborate Engraving, will be fourpence. The nominal sum charged for the Engraving will be merely the cost of the paper on which it is printed. It will not be compulsory on Purchasers of the newspaper to buy the Engraving, but no copies of the Engraving will be sold distinct from the newspaper upon any consideration whatever.

Specimen impressions are now ready for delivery. Country Agents applying for them, are requested to state how they can be sent.

148, Fleet Street, London.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1856.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN QUESTION.

WE know that the reader looks with some apprehension on a discourse about those remote regions, and thinks the Mosquito territory as vexatious as the mosquito insect itself. But there is the American difficulty to settle; this is an important part of it, and we hope to put in an intelligible manner Lord CLARENDON'S "case." Not that we feel any special zeal for that statesman, but because it has fallen to his lot to represent Great Britain in this discussion, and it is our business to know what he has to say. We shall be all, perhaps, choosing members before long, and we ought to know how our interests have been managed in the matter of Central America.

It is tolerably plain that this Central American difficulty is quite modern as a dispute; we had taken San Juan de Nicaragua (now called Greytown) for more than a year before the Americans thought it worthy of notice. But when the Californian gold turned up, this out-of-the-way part of the world became all of a sudden of immense Yankee importance. There seemed a chance of a canal or a railway there, to connect the States easily with the Pacific. Forthwith the matter was looked up. How came Britain to be protecting the Mosquito territory? What rights had the twopenny Spanish republics inherited from old Spain? Was not the King of Mosquito an Indian barbarian with no rights of his own, and no claim to anybody's protection?

Now it is clear enough that our English claims in Central America were of old standing. In 1742, the English were settled in Ruatan, for one place; it was a part of the Belize settlement. With regard to the Mosquito territory, Spain has never disputed our protectorate of it since 1815. These circumstances gave us as good a *locus standi* in Central America as we could wish. Accordingly when, as above-mentioned, the canal or railway question came up, the Americans applied to us to join them "in guaranteeing the neutrality of a ship-canal, railway, or other communication between the two oceans," and asked "whether the British Government intended to occupy or colonise Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito coast so-called, or any part of Central America?" This was in November, 1849. Lord PALMERSTON disclaimed the occupying or colonising, but accepted the co-operation in the matter of the canal or railroad across the isthmus. And hence the celebrated Clayton-Bulwer treaty of which we hear so much. The worst part of the difficulty is that we are now disputing what this treaty really meant.

In words, the treaty of 1850 secured that neither party should "occupy nor colonise, nor assume nor exercise any dominion over Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito Coast, nor any part of Central America," and that neither party should "make use of any protection which either affords," for the same purposes. (We need not repeat the exact words which have been stated already.)

Hereupon the discord arose. Mr. BUCHANAN maintains that this provision bound us to give up all protection of the Mosquito territory. Lord CLARENDON replies that protection is one thing and occupation and colonisation quite other things; and adds that the interpretation which he now puts on the treaty was accepted, soon after it was drawn up, by Mr. WEBSTER. It certainly would be absurd to suppose that a treaty created to protect a new project like the canal, would be allowed to annul old rights. Our protectorate of the Mosquito region is an old right. It depends on our relation to a particular race of Indians with whom we have alliance; and Spain—the original European occupier of that part of America—has not (we repeat) disputed it these forty-one years.

Another part of the dispute arises about other parts of Central America—the British Honduras, Ruatan, and some islands (the Bay Islands) in the neighbourhood. Mr. BUCHANAN contends that by this treaty of 1850, we were bound to deliver up Ruatan, as part of the American Honduras. Lord CLARENDON replies that Ruatan has long been a dependency of our undisputed settlement of Belize; and that hence, when Belize was omitted from the treaty, the American Government ought to have stated that it did not include Ruatan among Belize's dependencies. The debate here, we see, is what was absolutely meant by the names of territories treated about! Lord CLARENDON argues that the Americans once admitted British Honduras to mean what he still argues it meant, and sent a consul there. He maintains, first, that his interpretation of the treaty is right, and second, that those who dispute it now have once admitted it to be right.

All this controversy about the treaty—about the question whether diplomatists knew what they were talking about, what they wanted to say, and what they wanted to get—will not raise diplomacy in the eyes of the public. But the American negotiators seem to have been as much in the dark as our own, and we certainly think that of the bunglers our own home-made bungler was most in the right. We have read the despatch of May 2, 1854, on which Lord CLARENDON

rests his case, with great attention; and are disposed to think that, as foreign policy and treaties go, those of England, in the Central American matter, have rather the advantage of those of America. It is clear that we have had an old connection with those parts of the world—that the Californian discoveries set the Yankees agog about our doings there—and that they are rather "riiled" at the "old country's" having her foot planted on so interesting a spot on this side of the Atlantic. Of course they want to get all they can out of the treaty of 1850; but no English gentleman can have been such a goose as to sign a treaty for the benefit of the other party only. If we had any old rights whatever, in those parts of the world, why give them up except under proper conditions?

Those proper conditions are not to be found in a treaty which people are not agreed about the interpretation of. So the arbitration for the interpretation of that treaty recommended by Government is what we hope the United States Government will agree to. We have all along thought a pacific termination of these disputes certain, and we hope that this plan will be put in action directly. The honour of neither nation is yet compromised. We have mistaken each other's meaning, that is all, and the sooner we come to a new understanding the better.

SAVINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN AND PRINCE ALBERT honoured the Society of Painters in Water Colours with a visit last week, to view the Exhibition, previous to its being opened to the public.

COUNT WILFORSKI has expressed a wish to obtain possession of the estates which formerly belonged to his family in Russian Poland.

THE COURT OF DIRECTORS of the East India Company have voted an annuity of £5,000 to the Marquis of Dalhousie.

SIR HAMILTON SLYMOUR has at last found at Vienna a fitting residence for the representative of England.

MR. HEYWORTH, M.P., is at present on a visit in America with his son-in-law, PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF has announced that large quantities of flour and biscuit will be publicly sold by Government in the kingdom of Poland.

COUNTS GEORGE AND VALENTIN ESTERHAZY have been nominated by the Emperor of Austria Grand Crosses of the Iron Crown.

MR. THOMAS COOPER, the Chartist poet, has been presented with a purse, containing £1,000, the result of a public subscription, commenced some time ago. THE SULTAN has sent a magnificent present in pearls and jewels to Queen Victoria.

PRINCE MENSCHIKOFF has been relieved of his post as Governor of Cronstadt. MR. JAMES CLERK MAXWELL, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, has been appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy at the University of Marischal College, Aberdeen.

LORD DALHOUSIE is mentioned in some quarters as not unlikely to be the next Premier.

TURKEY will be represented at the approaching coronation of the Emperor Alexander, by Reschid Pacha.

PROFESSOR AYTOUN'S new poem, "Bothwell," will appear early in June.

VISCOUNTS PALMERSTON'S Saturday Réunions will be discontinued this season, in consequence of the sudden and lamented death of her eldest son, Lord Cowper.

LORD DERBY held a meeting of his political supporters at his mansion in St. James's Square, on Monday, when two hundred Members of the House of Commons were present.

THE REV. HENRY MELVILLE, the newly-appointed Canon of St. Paul's, will not preach in the metropolitan cathedral until early in July.

LORD PALMERSTON had a meeting of his political friends at his residence, 148, Piccadilly, on Monday, when two hundred and five were present.

THE GRAND DUKE OF TUSCANY, who is now at Naples, purposes visiting the Pope, to consult with his Holiness on the present prospects of Italian rulers.

THE STEAM-FRIGATE TRIBUNE, having on board Lord Dalhousie, left Malta for England on the 20th ult., in tow of the furious, paddle-wheel-frigate.

THE FIRST EDITION of Victor Hugo's "Contemplations" was exhausted at Paris one day after the issue.

THE "WINTER'S TALE" has been produced at the Princess's Theatre, in the presence of her Majesty and a brilliant audience.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE presided at a public meeting at Willis's Rooms on Monday, for the purpose of taking measures for the erection of an edifice at Constantinople for ecclesiastical purposes, as a memorial of the services of the British army in the late war.

THE QUEEN, according to Southampton gossip, will shortly review the fleet at Spithead again, to enable the members of the Houses of Lords and Commons to witness the review; and the Emperor of the French is expected.

MR. ROBERT GLADSTONE, of Manchester, whose politics are Conservative, has intimated his intention of becoming a candidate for the borough of Lancaster.

THE COURT OF ROME is sedulously endeavouring to obtain from the Government of Tuscany a concordat similar to that lately granted by Austria.

LE NOIR, and other journals in the Russian interest, publish full details, from "special correspondents," of the late naval review at Spithead.

MR. BLACKETT, late M.P. for Newcastle-on-Tyne, died last week, at Ville-neuve-sur-Yonne.

BARON STIEGLITZ, the Russian banker, now in Paris, will probably visit London, to raise the necessary funds for establishing a bank at St. Petersburg.

THE FREE WATERMEN AND LIGHTERERS of the river Thames, residing at Greenwich, Chatham, and Woolwich, held a meeting last week, to oppose the Corporation Reform Bill of Sir George Grey.

BARON BRUNOW, who was formerly Russian Minister at the British Court, will not improbably return to this country, as the Russian representative at the Court of St. James's.

PRINCE NAPOLEON, it is said, is shortly to undertake a tour in the north of England, and to visit afterwards the coasts of Denmark and Norway.

LADY PALMERE, widow of the late Lord, was married privately on Saturday last, at Fulham Church, to Mr. Power, one of the Queen's Foreign Service Messengers.

THE CZAR has sent the decoration of the Russian Order of the White Eagle to the Duke of Saldanha, President of the Council of Portuguese Ministers.

THE STATE OF THE CROPS of every kind in the neighbourhood of Paris is described as most satisfactory.

A COLLECTION is being made at Berlin for building a synagogue at Jerusalem for German Jews, and Baron de Manteuffel has given to it thirty gold Fredericks.

THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION meet at Albany in August, and propose to invite twenty or thirty of the leading "savants" of Europe to become their guests, and to accept free passages to America and back.

DR. HASSALL is to have a testimonial presented to him, in acknowledgment of his great and meritorious services to the public as detector of adulterations in various articles of food.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY proposes to hold its meeting for the year 1857 in some city or town in the district composed of the counties of Dorset, Wilt, Somerset, and Wilts.

THE PREFECT OF ALGIERS, at a banquet lately given to the Governor-General, proposed a toast—"To the arrival of the Emperor, whose presence amongst us will mark a new era in the history of this country."

ARCHDEACON HALE will deliver his archidiaconal charge to the London clergy, on Monday, at eleven o'clock, at the church of St. Sepulchre, City.

THE QUEEN expressed to Rear-Admiral Dundas, when at the review of the fleet, her intention of granting a medal for the late Baltic campaigns.

THE HIGH ECCLESIASTICAL circles of Rome are panic-struck at the Cavour programme, and irritated at the strong language made use of by the English press, respecting the maladministration of the Papal dominions.

THE COUNTESS DE MONTIJO, mother of the Empress of the French, and the Duke and Duchess d'Alba, her brother-in-law and sister, are daily expected at Madrid.

THE DIRECTORS of the new Philharmonic Society intend giving a concert this season in aid of the Hospital for Consumption at Brompton.

TWO HUNDRED pieces of artillery, captured at Sebastopol, and belonging to the Sardinian army, have been shipped at Balaklava.

MADAM GOLDSCHMIDT, while staying at Dou Ha's Hotel, Edinburgh, gave the domestics of that establishment the gratification of listening to one of her sweetest melodies.

THE GLOVE states that it has been determined to postpone the exhibition of fireworks to the 29th of May, the day set apart for the celebration of her Majesty's birth-day.

ed. The details of this most extraordinary leviathan are most interesting. The aid of steam has been called upon in her construction, and scarcely any manual labour, such as that of ship carpenters and artisans,

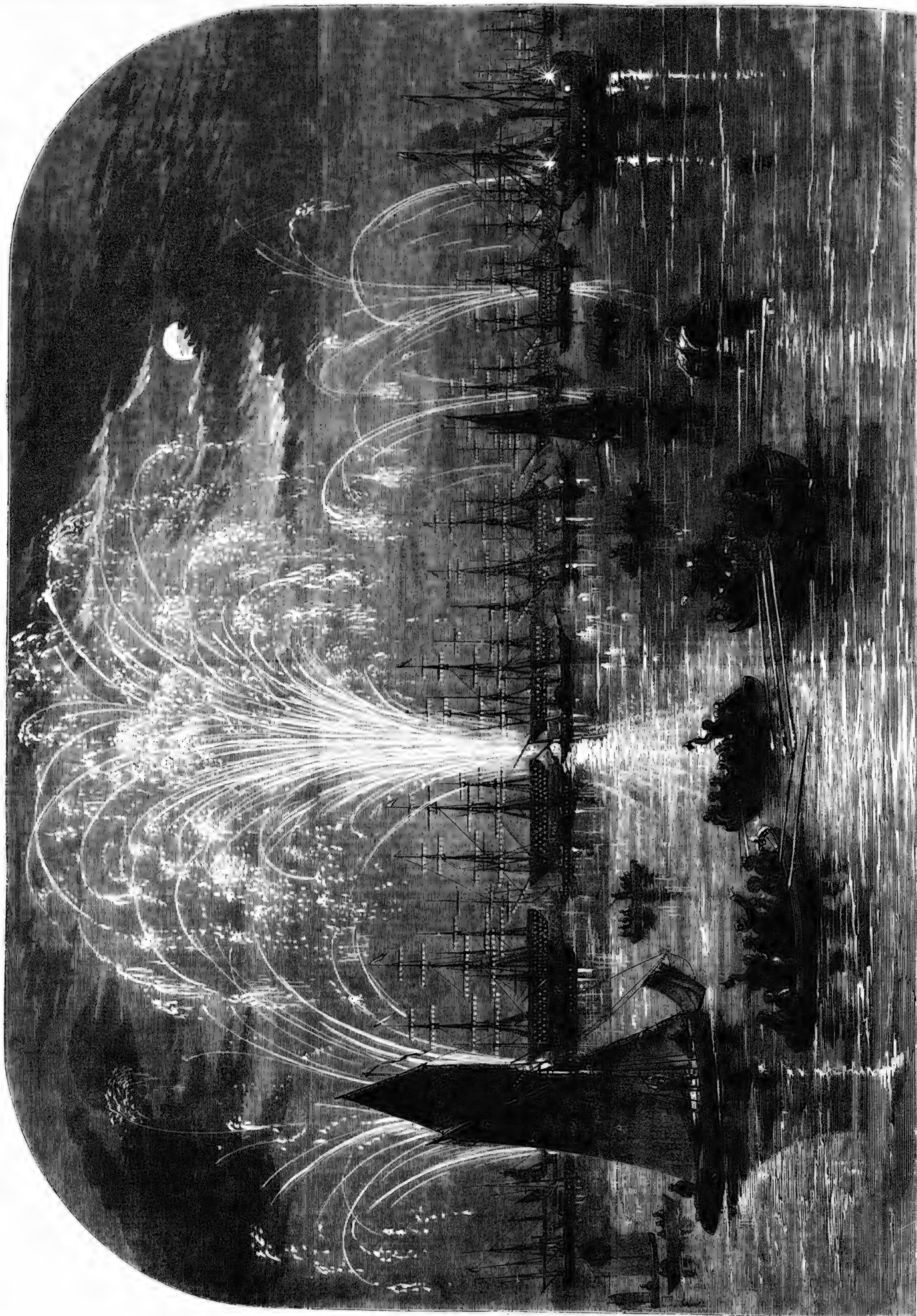
picture we ever saw. Its subject will be understood from the catalogue description above given. But its treatment must be seen—and even then will not be understood by all. It is too true. We have been much

were shockingly disfigured, was unconscious, but did not die until about an hour after

At one point, there is resemblance between Mr. Hing and his all but namesake, ceases. He is not the greatest painter of the Society to which he belongs. He must succumb to Mr. J. E. Lewis—S. J. Lewis, as he is known to all posterity. This narrative thus exhibits one picture only. But it is a picture before we have seen the others. It is a picture. This is (134). "A French Emigrant in the Forest of Monart Stani, 1842, the count of S. Catherine in the distance. The picture comprises portraits of an English nobleman and his sister; Mahmud the deaconman, &c.; Hu, the Earl of Gifford, &c."

When we stated that Messrs. Hing and Lewis painted all the pictures in their mutual walk, we spoke advisedly. This picture, however, is a way from, and as far above, the walk of either. It is one of the greatest pictures we ever saw. Its subject will be understood from the catalogue description above given. But its treatment must be seen—and even then will not be understood by all. It is too true. We have been much

The Traction is the *Great Eastern*, that wonderful steamship built by Scott Russell, a yard at Millwall, under the superintendence of Mr. [illegible]. The details of this most extraordinary levitation are not interesting. The aid of steam has been called upon in her construction, and scarcely any manual labour, such as that of ship carpenters and artizans,



THE GRAND NAVAL REVIEW—THE ILLUMINATION OF THE FLEET.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. G. URSSELL)



GRANDFATHER'S VISIT.—(FROM A PICTURE BY WALTER GOODALL.)

A CORNER FOR THE CURIOUS.—NO. 7.
O-SOLETE MODES OF PUNISHMENT.

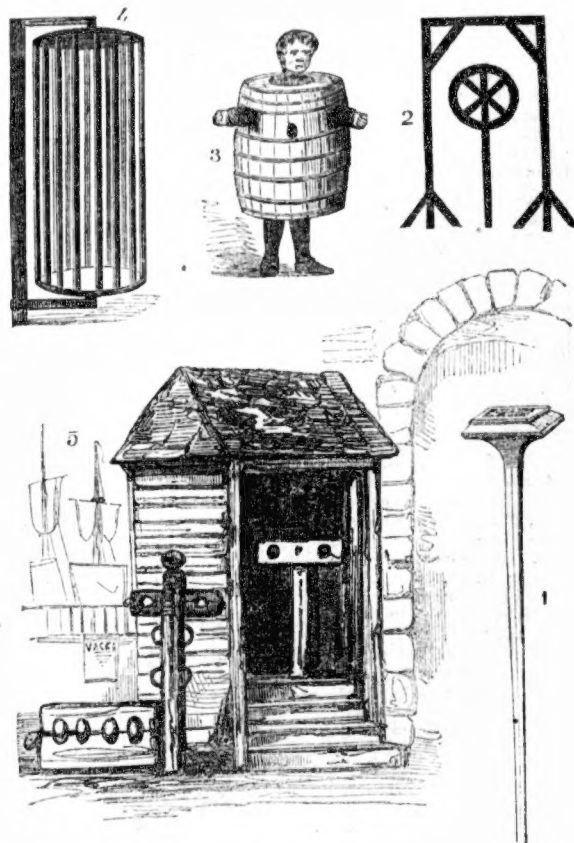
In a previous number, we gave representations of some ancient instruments of punishment and torture, all more or less terrible in their character; the use of which has for many a long year been happily abandoned. As a companion to this group, we have engraved a few of the instruments of punishment by which criminals of a vulgar character were sought to be reformed. The first of these is the felon's brand, the mark of which rendered a man infamous for life. One of the two figures given below, represents the instrument itself; the other, the mark branded in, which latter has been engraved the exact size. The device, which is deeply cut into the metal, is a gallows such as was used before the invention of the Drop and the Wheel for execution and torture.

The Stocks and Whipping-post, although long since removed from London Bridge, may be met with in retired country places. We have noticed some characteristic examples in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, where some of the may-poles, day-wheels, and other curious relics, may still be seen.* In some instances the Stocks and Whipping-posts were richly carved, and clamped with iron work of an ornamental character. We remember seeing the stocks used within the last thirty years, once at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and once at Gateshead, the adjoining town. The culprit in the one instance was an elector, who, in the excess of zeal and beer, during an old-fashioned contested election, rushed into one of the churches during the Sunday's service, and shouted out, "Bell (one of the candidate) for ever." He was speedily taken hold of, and placed for several hours in the stocks in the churchyard; and, as the stimulating effect of the strong drink passed away, he looked a deplorable object, decked as he was with numerous cockades, the "favours" of the candidate, whose cause he so indiscreetly supported.

The punishment of the barrel we should think to have been adapted for drunkards who could preserve a perpendicular position.

In the histories of London, it is mentioned that bakers and other dealers caught giving false weight, or in other ways cheating the poor, were exhibited occasionally in this manner; but more frequently they were placed in the parish dung-cart, and slowly drawn through the streets of the district.

The Whirligig, a circular cage which could be moved swiftly round on a pivot, was, in bygone days, in use for offenders in the English army.



1. BRAND FOR MARKING FELONS. 2. IMPRESSION OF BRAND. 3. PUNISHMENT FOR DRUNKARDS, FORMERLY IN USE AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 4. THE WHIRLIGIG, A MILITARY METHOD OF PUNISHMENT. 5. PILLORY, STOCKS, AND WHIPPING POST, FORMERLY ON LONDON BRIDGE.



MALE CONVICT AT PENTONVILLE PRISON.

FEMALE CONVICT AT MILLBANK PRISON.

(FROM PHOTOGRAPHS BY HERBERT WATKINS, 179, REGENT STREET.)

* A good specimen was demolished at Tottenham not long ago.

There was another instrument used for the same purpose called the Horse, which was in the rude resemblance of the animal whose name it bore. The body was composed of planks of wood, which formed a sharp angle along the back. On this the soldier was seated, and his legs fastened below to several heavy muskets. This is said to have been a very severe and dangerous punishment. In addition to the above, and flogging, imprisonment, &c., there were three ancient methods of punishment in the English army—viz., beheading, hanging, and drowning. The latter of these, according to Grose, was in use only in the reign of Richard I. This author observes that, some centuries ago, capital punishment was rare in our army, the men having generally property, which was confiscated in case of misconduct. He, however, refers to some terrible means which were resorted to for the purpose of preserving discipline. Hanging was chiefly confined to spies, who were taken to a tree in sight of the camp, and yet sufficiently distant, and there hung up. In many instances, when a corps or a considerable body of men were guilty of crime, for which the established punishment was death, to prevent too great a weakening of the army, the delinquents, Grose says, "were decimated, that is, only every tenth man was taken. A number of billets, equal to that of the body to be decimated, were put into a helmet, every tenth billet being marked with the letter D, or some other character signifying death; the helmet was then shaken, in order to mix them, and the soldiers, filing off singly from the right, passed by the commanding officers, before whom, on a table, stood the helmet; as they passed, each drew a billet and presented it to an officer placed to receive them. If the billet had the fatal mark, the soldier was seized and marched into the rear."

This wholesale method of capital punishment must have been a solemn affair. At times, it was customary to punish the men at the right hand of companies, without giving them the chance of the billet—on the principle that these were the most influential persons, and must, from their companionship with the others, have been acquainted with and have possessed the means of checking or giving information, which would prevent dangerous offences.

The regular ones of the English army during the time of Henry VIII., and previous reigns, may be met with in "Grose's Military Antiquities;" they are of very great interest, but so lengthy, that our limited space will not admit of our giving them.

PENTONVILLE PRISON.

(From the May Part of Mayhew's "Great World of London.")

At eight o'clock in the morning, the "Model Prison" is noisier and fuller of life and bustle than ever; and the transition from the silence during breakfast-time to the sudden outpouring of the convicts, is a strongly-marked feature of the place.

No sooner does the clock point to the hour above mentioned, than the bell for morning prayers in the chapel is heard booming and humming overhead throughout the resonant arcades, and instantly the cell-doors are successively thrown open, and the brown-clad prisoners stream forth from every part of the building; above, below, on this side, and on that, lines of convicts come hurrying along the corridors and galleries at a rapid pace, one after the other, and each at the distance of some four or five yards apart, while the warders, who stand by watching their movements, keep crying to the men as they pass, "Now, step out there, will you—step out!"

This is accompanied with a noise and clatter that is as bewildering as the sight; the tramping of the feet, the rattling of the iron staircases by the bridges as the prisoners pass up and down them, the slamming of the cell-doors, and the tolling of the bell overhead—all keep up such an incessant commotion in the brain that the mind becomes half-distracted with what it sees and hears. Nor does the tumult cease in a second or two, for as it takes some seven or eight minutes to empty the prison when full, the line of convicts streaming along from all parts of the building seem to be endless, and impress you with the idea of the number being positively infinite.

Moreover, each of the prisoners is not only clad alike—and brown as so many bees pouring from the countless cells of a hive—but every one wears a peculiar brown cloth cap, and the peak of this (which is also of cloth) hangs so low down, as to cover the face like a mask, the eyes alone of the individual appearing through the two holes cut in the front, and seeming almost like phosphoric lights shining through the sockets of a skull. This gives to the prisoners a half-spectral look; and though they have hardly the same hideous appearance as the diver at the Polytechnic, with his big hydrocephalous head and glass-window eyes, nevertheless the costume of the men seems like the outward vestment to some wandering soul, rather than that of a human being; for the eyes, glistening through the apertures in the mask, give one the notion of a spirit peeping out behind it, so that there is something positively terrible in the idea that these are men whose crimes have caused their very features to be hidden from the world. It is strange, too, how different the convicts look under such circumstances from the ordinary coarse-featured men seen in the chapel; for at Pentonville the screening of the faces gives a kind of tragic solemnity to the figures, and thus there appears to be nothing vulgar nor brutal about them.

We are here speaking of first impressions only, for after a time, when the spectral sentiment has worn off, the imposition of these same masks—though originally designed, it must be confessed, with every kindness and consideration to the prisoners, in order that their faces might not be seen in their shame—cannot but be regarded as a piece of wretched flippancy, and as idle in use as they are theatrical in character; for the men at the "Model," being all destined either for transportation abroad, or for labour at the public works at home, where no such masquerading is indulged in, it becomes positively silly to impose such a costume on the prisoners as a means of preventing recognition in after life, since all such restraints are removed during the latter part of their punishment.

SOLUTIONS OF CHARADE AND REBUSES.

ANSWER TO CHARADE IN LAST NUMBER.

Lively Head—Liveliness.

ANSWER TO REBUS IN LAST NUMBER.

There is nothing new under the sun.
(There is: nothing new, under "The Sun.")

ANSWER TO REBUS IN NO. 39.

A burnt child dreads the fire.
(A burnt; Child; D-reads the fire.)

OPERA, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

ALL doubts with respect to the opening of her Majesty's Theatre have been at length settled by the appearance of the official programme. Mr. Balfe, who had been mentioned by most journals as having been appointed to the post of conductor, has nothing whatever to do with the establishment. Signor Bonetti, who formerly directed the Barcelona opera, is to conduct; M. Tolbecque is to lead during the opera, as of old; while M. Noland will resume his ancient function of leader during the ballet. The ballet is to receive a considerable share of attention, and unless the public has lost its taste for this species of entertainment during the last few years, the choreographic attractions offered by her Majesty's Theatre will in themselves ensure good audiences—if the word audience can be used in the case of a ballet, where there is nothing to hear but the music, which is never listened to. There will, however, by way of exception, be ballet-music well worth listening to the nights on which "Les quatre Saisons" is performed; this being, in fact, the name of the *décortement* introduced in Verdi's "Sicilian Vespers." As Verdi's music is, for the most part, of a serious, and even a gloomy character, it will probably surprise those persons who deny the composer's versatility, to find that his dance music is of the most brilliant and vivacious description. We believe that the ballet, instead of having suffered, will rather have gained in attractiveness, from the fact of not having been witnessed on any large scale for a considerable period; but if it should have lost any of its charms, Rosati and Mario Tagliani will suffice to revive them.

Mr. Lumley's operatic engagements are very promising, especially as re-

gards soprano and contralto. Mademoiselle Wagner, whose father considers the English "only to be valued for their money," is about to exchange her notes for a good deal of it. This lady is to appear, in the first instance, as Romeo, in Bellini's "Capuletti e Montecchi." Romeo is Mademoiselle Wagner's most celebrated part, but as she has also acquired much reputation in *Fidelio*, it is probable that she will be produced in that role, so that the English public may have an opportunity of seeing her in her two most successful roles. By producing "Fidelio," Mr. Lumley will also gain the approbation of all thorough-going classical critics. Whether this will compensate him for the loss which will at the same time manifest itself in his receipts, we are, of course, unable to say; but he is, probably, aware that "Fidelio" is not an opera which usually attracts the large body of opera-goers.

Mademoiselle Albani is to appear on the opening night in the "Cenci," and we hope to hear her afterwards as Fides in the "Prophète." Fides is also one of Mademoiselle Wagner's great parts, and it has been surmised that this may be the cause of some jealousy between the great Italian and the great German vocalists. We can only suggest that these ladies play the part in succession, allowing the public to act as umpire between them.

Mr. Lumley's third great attraction will be Mademoiselle Piescoloni, who is the Madame Doche of opera—that is to say, the heroine of the "Traviata," which is a lyric version of the "Dame aux Camélias." Verdi's "Traviata" (anglicized, "The Transgressor," "The Erring One") is his last opera but one, it having been produced some time before his late Parisian success, the "Vêpres Siciliennes." As it is to be the great novelty, both at her Majesty's Theatre and the Lyceum, we may as well say a few words respecting its subject, and the mode in which Verdi has treated it. The "Dame aux Camélias" has never appeared in English, and no English publisher could be found sufficiently daring to affix his name to such a book, but it is stated at the foreign libraries of our metropolis that the work has enjoyed an enormous circulation among English gentlemen (and ladies) who are in the habit of reading French. Accordingly, as almost every one now reads French, we may presume that the story of the "Dame aux Camélias" will not be unfamiliar to the majority of the audience at each of the Italian operas. Those incidents and characters which belonged more particularly to the domain of comedy have been omitted, and we find no traces in the "Traviata" of the virtuous young couple who were introduced in the "Dame aux Camélias" for the apparent object of showing the French public how very uninteresting a virtuous young couple could be. The other portions of the piece are simply translated (sometimes in quite a literal manner) from the French original. "Marguerite Gauthier" is called "Violetta Valéry;" Armand Duval, the lover, becomes Alfredo Germont, and the action of the piece is thrown back to 1700—of course, for the sake of the costumes. That the costumes of Manon Lescaut and her admirers are more picturesque than those of Marguerite Gauthier, and the lions by whom she was surrounded, there can scarcely be a doubt; but in the beginning of the eighteenth century fathers were not so particular as in the present day, and certainly would not have objected to a *liaison* with so estimable a Traviata as Verdi's heroine, on the ground that her sister's matrimonial prospects would be interfered with thereby. The success of the "Traviata" in Italy was no doubt due, in a great measure, to the libretto. The music is, however, in many parts very beautiful. The tenor has a *brindisi* in the first act which is getting popular before its time. The whole of the soprano's music in the last act is admirable, and the baritone has one air (the only one he sings) in the second act, which will be as great a favourite as "Il Balen," in the "Trovatore."

The "Traviata" is of course full of contrasts. In the first act we have an orgie, in the last a deathbed. The second act opens up with a picture of very passionate love, in a very well furnished cottage, and ends with a scene of desperate gambling and violent insult. The music, although not abounding in melody, is very appropriate throughout, and therefore highly dramatic.

Of the numerous tenors engaged at her Majesty's Theatre we know nothing, with the exception of Signor Beaucarde, Bogaerde, or Bogaerde, whom we do not like. It is true, that on the three or four occasions, during a period of three weeks, in which we heard this gentleman, he was suffering from a severe cold, which is rather a disadvantage to a vocalist who has to take the principal part in the "Trovatore." Let us hope that he has at length been cured.

At the Lyceum, Grist was to have appeared on Thursday, in "Norma," and Mario is expected to appear next week. Madame Bosio's success as Adina, in the "Elisir," has been very great, but not so great as it should have been, in which case it would perhaps have been the greatest ever witnessed. There is something disgusting to us in the cold manner in which most of our *conférenciers* state that "Madame Bosio made a great deal out of the part of Adina," or that "Madame Bosio, as the village *coquette*, was as usual admirable," when she in fact sings and acts the part better than it has ever been sung and acted before on the Anglo-Italian stage. Although we do not maintain that Madame Bosio is the greatest actress or the greatest singer living, we distinctly state, that never did any one, at the same time, look, act, and sing the part of Adina so well as Madame Bosio. Her naturalness was most charming, and it was wonderful how her acting was never sacrificed to her singing nor her singing to her acting.

The concerts at the Crystal Palace, and, above all, the grand *fête* in celebration of the peace, are being organised on a very grand scale. Every one is, in fact, celebrating peace in some way or other. M. Desiré, the conductor of the balls at the Italian Opera of Paris, gave a very brilliant ball last Thursday, at the Princess's Concert Room, in its honour; and the managers of the metropolitan theatres are anxious that their establishments should be thrown open to the public, at the Government expense, on the occasion of the official *fête*. As long as we are not required to enter any of them, we shall not object.

In the way of new music, we may mention that Mr. Desmond Ryan has written English words to the very pretty *brindisi* in the "Traviata," of which we have already spoken, and that Mr. Montague has arranged a pleasing waltz, which is formed out of the said *brindisi* (slightly mutilated) and the allegro of the soprano's principal air (Bossey and Co.). The same publisher's have brought out Balfe's serenade to Longfellow's words, "Good night, good night, beloved," which was sung with so much success by Sims Reeves at Mr. Hullah's concerts.

François Bergard has written the music of a ballad in the "Happy Land" style, which is accordingly simple and calculated to become popular, without being very meritorious. Mr. Pratten has composed two songs, one of which is spirited and is sung by Mr. Weiss with great effect ("Onward, away"), while the other (the "Evening Star") is of a tranquil and peaceful nature as the journal of that name. Jules Brisson's brilliant fantasia from the "Lucia" is founded on the tenor's last air and the soprano's air in the mad scene. We cannot understand what necessity there was for turning Lucia's beautiful melody into a waltz; but Jules Brisson has so ordained it. We should have stated that all the music mentioned in this paragraph is published by Duff and Hodgson.

POLICE AND CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE GANG OF HOTEL FLEURS—Benjamin Allen Howard and Oscar Kingston, of whose predatory exploits we gave some account in our last number, appeared again at Clerkenwell on Monday. The court was crowded to excess by the victims of the gang of American hotel plunderers, who have now, for some time past, been carrying on their nefarious practices at the principal hotels throughout the United Kingdom and at Paris. About two o'clock, the prisoners, who looked smart Yankees, and wore elegantly cut clothes, and had with them a quantity of very valuable jewellery, were brought up.

The evidence taken on a former occasion having been read over, Mr. Staniland stated that the last time he saw his purse was at Boston. There were other people in the train with him. He would not undertake to swear whether he lost his purse in London or in Lincolnshire. He advertised his loss, and there he stated that he was not sure where he had lost the notes.

A clerk in the Standard and Spalding Bank, at Boston, said he recollected, on the 19th of March, cashing two cheques for Mr. Staniland's clerk. Amongst the change were three Bank of England notes of £100 each, and sixteen Boston notes. The three Bank of England notes produced were the same. The cheques were for £465 6s. 8d.

A clerk to Mr. Staniland proved cashing the cheques produced on the 19th of March, and identified the notes produced to be the same. He gave the change he received to his employer.

Mr. Emery, tailor in Regent Street, knew Oscar Kingston, who on the 20th of March last, came and asked him to change the notes. He told him that he had sent it to his bankers. He knew him, having served him with a suit some six or seven days previously. He sent the notes to the Union Bank in Pall Mall for the purpose. He endorsed the notes "Messrs. Emery and Co."

A clerk to Mr. Bull of Chancery, remembered receiving a £100 note, and the name of the Boston Bank for the same name. He wrote the name on the note, and the note produced was the same. The notes were changed into American dollars. When he came he said he wanted to exchange some American dollars, and he brought £125 worth. The number of the note was 000 000 000. He did not think that either of the prisoners was the man who changed the notes.

A clerk to Messrs. Roberts proved receiving the notes from Messrs. Boston. Mr. Spaulding, of Lombard Street, said that the two notes of £100 each, dated 4th, he exchanged for American gold dollars on the 14th of April. The person for whom he exchanged them came in the middle of the day, and endorsed the notes "A. Howard, Boston." He also exchanged a £100 note, which he could not identify. The notes were paid in to his bankers, the Messrs. Emery. He could not recognise either of the prisoners as the man who changed the notes at the time was so short.

A porter at Morley's Hotel said—On the 19th of February, Mr. Oscar Kingston arrived at the hotel. It is the practice at the hotel to ask American guests to enter their names in a register in which their friends should call. Oscar Kingston wrote his name in the book. On the 25th, Howard arrived there; and when Kingston came home he told him that Mr. Howard was at the hotel. When he heard that, he said in an off-hand manner, "Oh! he has arrived." They both left the 29th in a cab together. While they were at the hotel they seemed to be friends, and took their meals together. Mr. Howard's name is not in the register.

A clerk to Messrs. Roberts proved receiving from the Messrs. Spaulding £100 notes and a £10 note on the 11th of April last. He knew them, because he had put a mark on them.

A waiter at the Queen's Hotel, Liverpool, said—He knew the man Howard. He came to the hotel on Sunday fortnight. He posted a letter for him, addressed to Morley's hotel.

A cashier in a steam-boat office, Liverpool, said he knew Howard, but not by that name. On the 18th of April he booked himself for a passage to the United States, by the Persia, under the name of "D. Allen." The passage ticket has his signature on it.

John Scott, a detective at Liverpool, stated that on the 19th instant, as the Persia was under way from New York, he boarded her, and seeing the prisoner, he asked him "How he was, whether his name was Howard, and whether he had been stopping at Morley's Hotel, London." He replied that he was very well, and had been staying at Morley's Hotel. He then told him that he wanted to see a luggage, and afterwards locked him up. When he searched him, he found the pass-book ticket on him, and told him that it was in the name of Allen, when he replied, "Yes, my name is Allen Howard." In a belt he found £115 10s. in English gold, seventy-eight gold 20 dollar pieces, thirty-two gold 10 dollar pieces, twenty-four gold 5 dollar pieces, 10 gold 2 1/2 dollar, forty-five gold 1 dollar pieces, and a large quantity of other American coin. He also found a key of peculiar make, which would be used for opening doors, and a gold watch, and two gold diamond rings.

The prisoners were then remanded until Tuesday week next.

A SUPPOSED TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN, AND TWO BIRDS OF A FEATHER.—William Thompson, 32; John Smith, alias Matthews, 23; and Wm. Brown, 19, all of whom were known bad characters, and one of them believed to be a ticket-of-leave man, were charged before the Worshipful Street Police Court, on Saturday last, with being in possession of a large quantity of jewellery, suspected to be the produce of a robbery.

Police-sergeant Barnes stated that while on duty in Thrall Street, Spitalfields, at twelve o'clock on the preceding night, in company with another officer, they saw a woman standing at the door of one of the houses, and looking intently up and down the street. The woman was manifestly on the watch for the police, and knowing the house to be the constant resort of thieves, they were hastening up, when she caught sight of them, and immediately ran indoors. On reaching the door, which was still open, as those of most of the houses in that street are constantly left, he heard the woman hurrying upstairs, and on reaching the top, he heard her exclaim, "Quick, quick! The police are coming; put it away!" He ran up after her, leaving the other officer at the door to intercept any one attempting to leave, and on reaching an upper room met Thompson and Brown coming out. They made a determined effort to get past him; but he stopped them, and after a sharp struggle succeeded in forcing them back into the room, and there saw Smith, whose dapper character he knew too well to take by himself, with Smith by the other arm, and he therefore called up his comrades, and proceeded to search them. While Brown was undergoing this operation, he saw him pass a package to one of the others, who dexterously jerked it upon the wall, and upon handing Brown over to the other officer and securing this package, it was found to contain a large quantity of jewellery, consisting of 153 ring stones, 70 seals, 62 watch keys, and numerous ornaments for ladies' use. While busy engaged in examining these, Smith and Thompson rapidly flung up the window, and, leaping out upon the roof of an out-house, descended into the yard, and thence got through the house into the street, but were quickly followed by the officers, who pursued them into another house of infamous character, and there discovered both of them concealed under a bed. If the prisoners were remanded, the Sergeant added, he had no doubt whatever that the property produced would be found to be the produce of some window-robbery or burglary.

Neither prisoner asked the witness a question, nor offered a word of defence, and all were committed till that day week.

THE SADDLER FRAUDS.

THE following curious statement respecting the affairs of the late John Sadler appeared in the Dublin "Post" of Saturday last:—"So gigantic and unprecedented are the frauds committed by John Sadler, that facts, as fresh discoveries are made, far surpass all the estimates that had been formed of, and all the speculations in which rumour had indulged. The Royal Savings Bank Company alone, it is now ascertained, has suffered by his organised system of plunder to the extent of nearly £250,000. Under such circumstances, it would be a matter of surprise if any one could be found rash enough to undertake the responsibility that might be incurred in the winding up of his affairs; and, unless the Crown consent to take the necessary steps for the appointment of an official representative, we see no likelihood of an administration in the case, although any creditor, we believe, may apply to the Court of Chancery to name him as official assignee. Meanwhile, whatever property stands in Sadler's name—such property, we mean, as may be extracted from the complicated system of swindling in which he has been so long engaged—is in danger of being lost to the creditors of the Tipperary Bank, as well as all other who may have claims. In the case of that most unfortunate concern, the law has provided a system of proceeding in the winding up Act; but that mode of acting is available only for joint-stock companies. On account of the verdict of self-murder the Crown can claim the right of administration; but unless the Crown consent to act, an act of Parliament may become necessary to transfer the property of John Sadler available in any form."

"Since the above was written, we have heard that some intemperate proceeding has been taken on behalf of the Crown in the Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury, with a view to the appointment of a person to take out administration in the affairs of John Sadler. This, if our information be correct, is a proper and necessary step, for no means should be left untried to obtain the fullest possible amount of assets to meet the enormous extent of the claims connected with the Tipperary Bank."

PALMER'S TRIAL.—The Lord Chief Justice Campbell has fixed the trial of William Palmer for the alleged poisonings at Rugeley, for Wednesday, the 14th of May. As this will be the day for the commencement of the session, it is considered that the trial, if it takes place on that day, will greatly interfere with the other business before the court. Representations have been made on the subject by the under-sheriff, and the probability is that the trial will take place upon some day early in the week after the commencement of the session, and not upon the 14th, as fixed by the Lord Chief Justice. It is said that already not less than two thousand applications have been made to the sheriffs for orders of admission to be present at the trial—a number far greater than can be accommodated in the old court. The delay that has taken place in ensuring Palmer a fair trial has proved seriously detrimental to his defence. Mr. Serjeant Wilkins is absent from illness. Sir Frederick Theiger and Mr. Edwin James are both engaged by the Crown. Sir Fitzroy Kelly requires £1,000 as his fee, and Mr. Ballantine, therefore, will conduct the defence against Sir A. Cockburn. The odds are very heavy, so far as counsel are concerned; but the prisoner's friends and family, who firmly believe in his innocence, regard the presence of Lord Campbell on the bench as a great protection.

THE MURDER OF MRS. KELLY.—In Irish local paper has the following misty revelations respecting the assassins of Mrs. Kelly:—"We are enabled to state from private sources, that many facts have been elicited tending to create a belief that the assassination of the unfortunate Mrs. Kelly was the result of a widely-extended conspiracy, and that the impunity with which the murderers were permitted to escape was not by any means accidental. Further it would not at this stage of the proceedings become us to state, probably a very short time will develop the full machinations which led to this sanguinary deed."

DETERMINED SUICIDE.—On Monday morning a woman of the name of Elizabeth Crossley, aged 40 years, committed self-destruction at 9, King Street, Chelmsford. She was found by one of the inmates in the water-closet, with a rope round her neck; one end of it was in her hand, with which she had tightened it, and the other was attached to a beam. She was cut down and taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, but life was extinct. No cause is assigned for the rash act.

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